

HOME NEWS

Tendency of ministers to by-pass Parliament criticized by committee

George Clark, a Conservative MP, has criticized the "recurring tendency" of ministers to by-pass Parliament by using statutory instruments to make changes to the law. He said that the public has a right to know about the changes and that the government should be more open in its dealings with Parliament.

An instrument can be laid before Parliament in a "scruffy" form, with manuscript amendments, and there might be no prospect of its being printed or even produced and distributed to the public for weeks, during which time the instrument becomes the "law of the land".

"This happens too often, and the situation has on occasions been further aggravated by the parent Act, although having received the Royal Assent, itself being unprinted and unpublished", the committee says.

"Answers which we have sometimes received from departmental officials... that the purpose of an unpublished order has appeared in the trade press or was well known to those concerned... are not accepted by us as an adequate response to the problem."

Recognizing the justification for delegated powers as a means of removing subsidiary or procedural details from the statute book or to afford the executive flexibility, the committee says that delegated legislation itself should be "detailed, specific and self-explanatory and should not depend upon the exercise of ministerial or departmental discretion."

"Circulars explaining or amplifying the contents of delegated primary or delegated legislation can be very useful to the general public and to the administrators. But we hope that Parliament will condemn subordinate legislation by departmental circulars."

The report comments on a particular order dealing with disposal of waste where there was a right of appeal against the refusal of a licence but no details of how appeals were to be made. When the committee complained to the department concerned it was told that details would be sent out in a departmental circular to every person giving notice of appeal. The committee found that that procedure clearly failed to comply with the intentions of the enabling Act.

Giving its conclusion, the committee says it sees its function as an endeavour to ensure that statutory instruments are indeed subordinate legislation. "So far as we are able, we shall continue to assist in ensuring that delegated powers are not abused and will not fall into disrepute."

First Special Report for Joint Committee on Statutory Instruments, Session 1977-78 (Stationery Office, 35p).

Magazine's readers favour private education

The survey, devised by Mr Ivan Reid, a senior lecturer in sociology at Bradford University, suggested that the readers of *Homes and Gardens* were overwhelmingly middle-class and Conservative.

Almost 90 per cent of those replying described themselves as middle-class, 63 per cent had voted Conservative at the last election and 75 per cent would vote Conservative now.

The women who replied earned considerably less on average than their husbands, almost half of them earning less than £3,000, while 94 per cent of their husbands earned more than that. Taking their husbands' income into account, half enjoyed joint incomes of between £6,000 and £10,000 and another quarter between £10,000 and £14,000.

Birthrate has led to women's emancipation

The growth of a pornography industry and the verbal obscenities which are hurled across football stands are each in their way further correlates of the pressure on men to adopt the new familial civilities.

The child had been the main beneficiary of developments in the twentieth century. "We seem to have created a children's paradise. No age has ever been more child-centred, or gone so far towards making death socially invisible."

"Most parents have lived through a dramatic shift in the standards expected of them. It is not enough, as it once was, to look after bodily health and physical security. Parents must also answer more than ever for the mental and moral character of their sons and daughters, despite influences from the street, the so-called peer group, the mass media and youth culture which they may fear but cannot escape."

"The old 'us and them' of the working-class mother is now a more generalized division as between the inner life of families of all classes, and the external public forces."

"Relations between the generations in all classes were prone to anxiety and put strains on the family unit. As a result they called into question the basis of our social order. He will deal with that question in his final lecture next Wednesday evening."

Victory for Lakeland opponents of noisy boats

From Our Correspondent, Grasmere

In five years the Lake District's only water skiing will have on Windermere. That is the result of the 1976 Three Lakes Inquiry, whose report was published yesterday.

Mr Rees, Home Secretary, has decided to allow the Lake District Special Planning Board to impose a 10mph speed limit on Derwent Water, the same limit on Conistone Water, except for world records, and the same on Ullswater after five years.

The concession to the Ullswater skiers, he says, is made because water-skiing is well established there, and the skiers will have to find alternative sites. Nor does he consider powerboating of itself offensive there.

The planning board had asked for only a restricted area to be allowed to the water-skiers on Ullswater for five years, but both the Inspector, Mr Michael Burke-Gaffney, and Mr Rees, said that that would be unworkable and dangerous.

The only point on which Mr Rees disagreed with his Inspector was in relation to Conistone, where Mr Burke-Gaffney had recommended a total speed ban. Mr Rees, however, was prepared to allow world record attempts to continue.

Mr Geoffrey Berry, consultant secretary of the Friends of the Lake District, said: "This decision is in the interests of the vast majority of visitors to the Lake District who come to enjoy its beauty without the distraction of noisy pursuits."

Science Museum copes with staff economies

By Kenneth Gosling, Arts Reporter

The Science Museum is to go ahead with a full exhibition programme despite 11 per cent staff cuts which have forced the Victoria and Albert Museum to close one day a week and to restrict gallery openings from April.

From next month the Science Museum will be operating on a staff reduced from 557 to 494 (that includes the Railway Museum at York, where no cuts have been made); but its director, Dr Margaret Weston, is confident that there will be no admission restrictions at present.

There will, however, be a review in a year's time to see, in the director's words, "how many things are being stifled."

Dr Weston disclosed, in her first interview since economies were announced last year, that the museum had proposed the setting up of a second "outstation": a museum of applied photography in an existing building in the north of England. The scheme has been submitted to the Department of



Dr M. K. Weston: Museum flourishing under DES.

Education and Science, with which the museum has had a good relationship.

"I do not think anybody can say the Science Museum has not flourished in the past under

the DES," she said. "It can hold its head up with any of the trustee museums, certainly in the last 15 years. I have nothing against trustee museums, but I and my staff have been happy in the working arrangement between us; only now is the manpower situation making life difficult for us."

People who said the department had cut the financing of museums did not understand the situation. The only money lost was to pay staff. "Otherwise we are well provided for financially."

In the next financial year the museum has a grant of £3.4m, which enables it to keep pace in real terms.

The new block, which rises two storeys above the old, is gradually filling up. The two top floors will accommodate the new Wellcome Museum of the History of Medicine. The collection contains 250,000 items. One team is already cataloguing and another starts in three months. The Wellcome Trust is paying £35,000 a year for the work and the museum is to open by the end of 1980.

On the next floor down a display of photography is being planned for opening at the end of October. Below that will be the first permanent gallery to be opened in the extension. It covers printing and papermaking, for which an appeals committee set up under the auspices of the British Printing Industries Federation raised £50,000.

The museum and the Department of the Environment have more than matched that amount in the provision of the gallery and its furnishings.

The exhibition includes a large, half-size model of the Koenig and Bouter press, which began printing *The Times* in 1814, to illustrate the coming of the machine age. Temporary exhibitions, such as that of Wedgwood, beginning in March, are helping to keep the new galleries in use.

"People are working hard to make all these things possible," Dr Weston said.

January's figures prove the attractiveness of the present exhibitions. Admissions totalled 299,650, a 69 per cent increase on the same month last year.

No discretion for Acas on recognition claims

By Philip Webster, Parliamentary Staff

The Government was accused yesterday of wanting to restrict the discretion of the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (Acas) in such a way that frivolous and capricious claims by trade unions for recognition would be favoured.

Mr Barney Hayhoe, an opposition spokesman on employment, made the allegation in the Commons standing committee on the Employment Protection Bill, a private mem-

ber's measure supported by the Government.

After a Conservative amendment to allow Acas not to proceed on a recognition claim unless it was satisfied that at least a quarter of the workers affected were members of the union seeking recognition had been defeated by eight votes to six, Mr Hayhoe said: "We think it is wise to add to the discretion of Acas, but the majority of the committee have shown by their vote that they want to restrict the discretion of Acas and to restrict it in

such a way that is favourable to frivolous or capricious claims."

Mr Hayhoe moved another amendment to give Acas discretion not to proceed with a recognition claim until it was satisfied that a formal request for recognition by the union had been rejected or not been dealt with adequately in reasonable time.

"The committee would be standing logic on its head if it was happy to accept circumstances in which a union without a single member in the

company concerned or without asking to be recognized could go to Acas and start off the whole recognition procedure."

The amendment was resisted by Mr Edward Fletcher, the Bill's sponsor.

Mr Fletcher said that low-paid employees working in intolerable conditions might form a union. If the amendment was carried, six months might elapse before the employer decided on their request for recognition. Debate on the amendment was adjourned.

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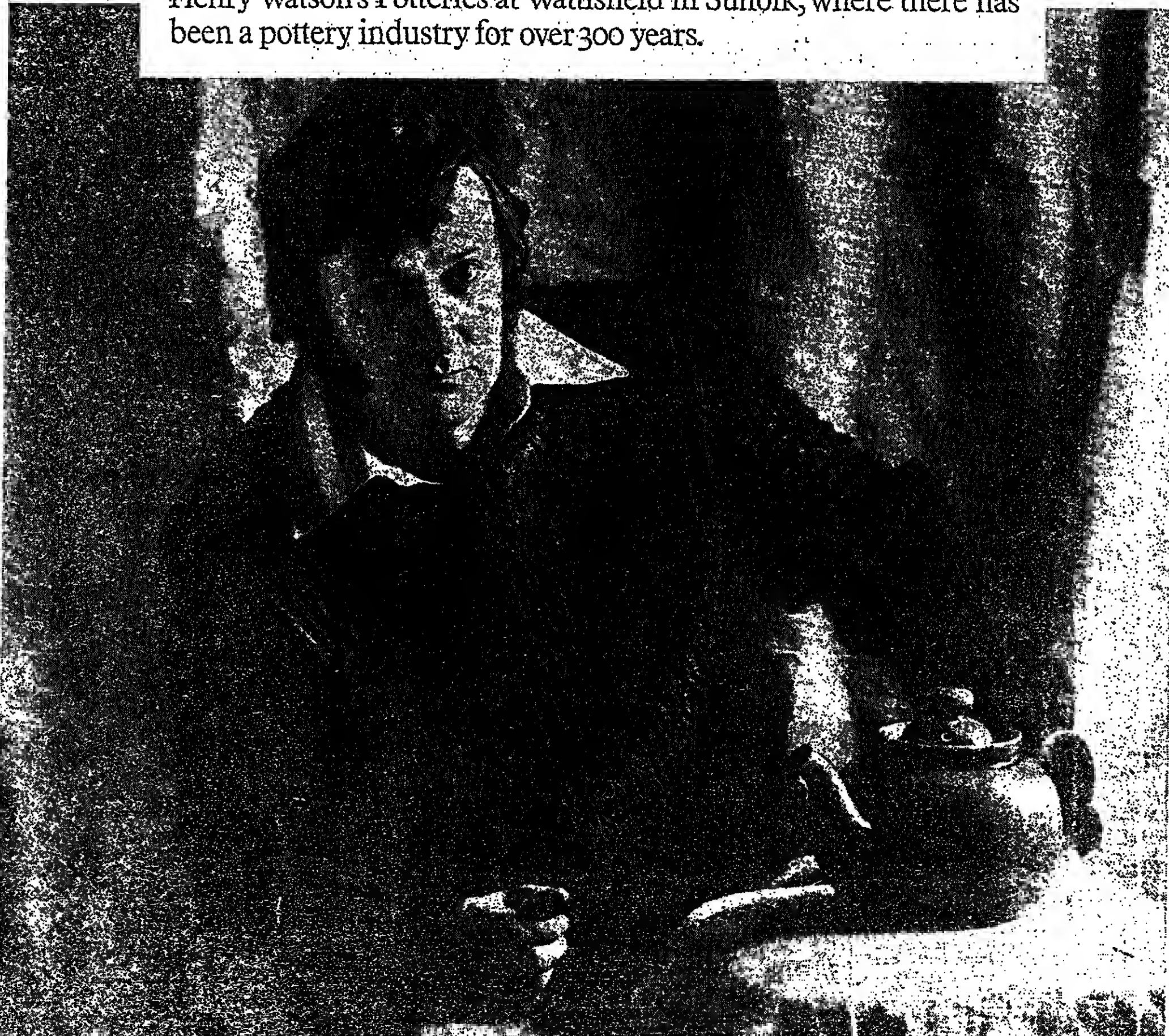
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INSURANCE FOR BRITISH EXPORTERS

HOME NEWS

Multiracial schools report is delayed

By Diana Goddes

Education Correspondent

The Schools Council and the National Foundation for Educational Research have not decided whether to publish all or any of the first five chapters of a controversial 300-page report on multiracial education, Mrs Dorothy White, a joint deputy secretary of the council, said yesterday. She denied, however, that there was any question of censorship.

The report, which is the outcome of a four-year curriculum development project by a research team at the National Foundation for Educational Research, with a £145,000 grant from the Schools Council, contains many anti-immigrant remarks from children and teachers.

The main complaint in the report about teachers' attitudes is that they tend to turn a blind eye to race issues, maintaining that young children do not notice colour unless their attention is deliberately drawn to it. But that is normally a way of covering up "negative attitudes" toward black and Asian children, the report suggests.

It gives an example of a teacher who, when she read to children in an infant's class, sat the white children in turn on her knee but stood the black children beside her.

Similar "negative attitudes" are found in black and Asian children themselves. One child in her first term in an infant's school in the Midlands was found scrubbing her hands almost raw, trying to get the colour off.

The first five chapters of the report are explicitly intended to support the research team's argument that racism is here to stay in Britain and that schools have a duty to demonstrate overtly their involvement in and allegiance to the concept of a truly multiracial society by means of developing a multiracial curriculum. The team's proposals for such a curriculum are given in their later chapters which constitute more than three quarters of the report.

Mrs White said the Schools Council's programme committee, which must approve all school reports before publication, considered that the report contained valuable suggestions on ways to approach multi-ethnic education but had strong doubts about the first five chapters. It also considered that the report was too long and too verbose.

The committee, which includes representatives of local authorities, teachers' organizations, the Department of Education and Science and the National Foundation for Educational Research, had therefore decided to publish the bulk of the report dealing with curriculum development, after technical editing, but to take another look at the first five chapters, possibly with a view to dropping them altogether, as some committee members would like, or to incorporate the research team's views in a general introduction by the Schools Council.

Store staff accused of 'pirate buying'

By Stewart Tendler

Crime Reporter

Staff working in some Woolworth stores have been buying their own stock cheap outside and selling it at full price among normal stock in the stores, according to allegations in a report under consideration by the Director of Public Prosecutions.

The report, into what the retail trade calls "pirate buying", has been compiled by members of Scotland Yard's fraud squad. The police would not comment on the report yesterday, and referred inquiries to the company.

Mr Michael Sherlock, sales and publicity director for F. W. Woolworth and Co., said an investigation in conjunction with the police began in 1976 and was still in progress. The sale of unlabelled merchandise was being examined and the inquiry was into pirate buying.

The Woolworth chain is the third largest in Britain, with thousands of stores, but Mr Sherlock said nothing like that number were thought to be involved in the investigation. No figure has been put on the

amount of money involved and he knew nothing of any report to the DPP.

It is understood that police investigations have involved checking stocks and order books against warehouse stock at several stores. In one region up to half the stores were thought to be involved in pirate buying and the report alleges that at least a dozen people were involved.

Pirate buying means that, for example, items are bought at 50p from a discount house and then placed among normal lines of stock at £1. The difference is clear profit as all the overheads and staff wages are already paid.

The company concerned loses because its own stock is not being sold and staff can manipulate stock reports to show that "shrinkage" goods, written off because of breakages or thefts, is smaller than it might otherwise be.

The company's image may also suffer because the goods bought at discount may not be up to the quality required by its policy and so its public reputation is tarnished.

Jury awards £37,000 to policeman

Sergeant Michael Leonard

Paying, aged 35, formerly of

Scotland Yard's Special Branch,

who was acquitted at the

Central Criminal Court in 1974

on indecency and bribery

charges, was awarded £37,000

damages by a High Court jury

yesterday for malicious prosecution.

Sergeant Palling, now in the

uniformed branch of Foxley

Lane, Purley, Surrey, was

awarded his damages against

the Metropolitan Police Com-

missioner and Police Constables

Daniel Toal and William Young,

of the vice squad, who arrested

him in the lavatories at Piccadilly

Underground station.

The jury found in answer to

questions put by Mr Justice

May, that the two constables

did not honestly believe their

allegations that they had seen

Sergeant Palling masturbating

in the lavatories and that he had

attempted to bribe them with a

£5 note. The officers had acted

maliciously, the jury held, and

awarded Sergeant Palling

£34,000 compensatory damages

and £3,000 exemplary damages.

The defendants, who had

maintained that they had reasonable cause to arrest Sergeant

Palling, were ordered to pay his

costs. They were granted a 21-

day stay of execution in respect

of £17,000 of the damages

award, pending a possible

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Pregnancy tests 'harmed children'

By Our Political Reporter

Allegations that children

have suffered damage as a

result of their parents having

hormone pregnancy tests were

made at the Commons yesterday.

Mr Ennals, Secretary of State

for Social Services, is to be

asked to inquire into the al-

legations, which were made at

the inaugural meeting of the

Association for Children Dam-

aged by Hormone Pregnancy

Tests.

The meeting was chaired by

Mr Jack Ashley, Labour MP for

Stoke-on-Trent, South, who said

the prime object of the asso-

ciation was to fight for com-

mune defects were serious.

Some of the children have

been deaf, blind, brain dam-

aged, limb defects, a cleft palate

and so on. "The parents told

of assurances that hormone

pregnancy tests would not damage

the children," they complained

about the failure of the Com-

missioner on Safety of Medicines

to take adequate precautions.

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EST EUROPE

Portuguese coalition under heavy attack

Our Correspondent on Feb 8

Communists today led the attack on the plan for a coalition government put forward by the new coalition government formed by the Socialists and the conservative Democratic Party.

Octavio Pato, a member of the Communist Party's central committee, said the promise was "divorced from the reality of the workers."

Another Communist, Magalhães, of the Social Democratic Party, which refused to join the coalition, asked the workers: "Who gave in to whom?"

Señor Barreiros, of the Democratic Union, a party that had voted against the constitution, the strike and land reform, Francisco Salgado Zevallos, of the Socialist Party's meaty group, defended the position of the coalition, was supported by the Democrats by their Professor Diogo Freitas.

are able to rule and beat the economic said. "We have... national support of a kind...

plan will be put to the vote on Saturday or early Sunday. The combined of the coalition is ed to carry it.

ind of Dr. Soares, page 6

Berlinguer plan offers new prospect for ending Italian crisis

From Peter Nichols Rome, Feb 8

The Italian government crisis moved into its third phase today after the Communist proposal made last night an emergency pact had opened the prospect of serious negotiations.

Most people agree that despite the Communist step there is still a long way to go before the country is likely to have a fully functioning government. The main problem remains of how far Christian Democrats will allow collaboration with the Communists to go.

The idea of Signor Enrico Berlinguer, the Communist leader, is that the Christian Democrats should form another minority administration made up of chosen ministers strictly according to their merits, possibly adding some technocrats to provide greater efficiency, and reduce the number of ministries as well as that of under-secretaries.

This more vigorous team would apply a programme drawn up by the parties supporting it, including the Communists, who also demand a clear and acknowledged parliamentary majority.

The proposal might well be enlarged to include the plan put forward by Signor Giulio Andreotti, the Prime Minister elect, to form a college of guarantors, consisting of the parliamentary leaders of the parties supporting the programme, whose duty would be to supervise its application.

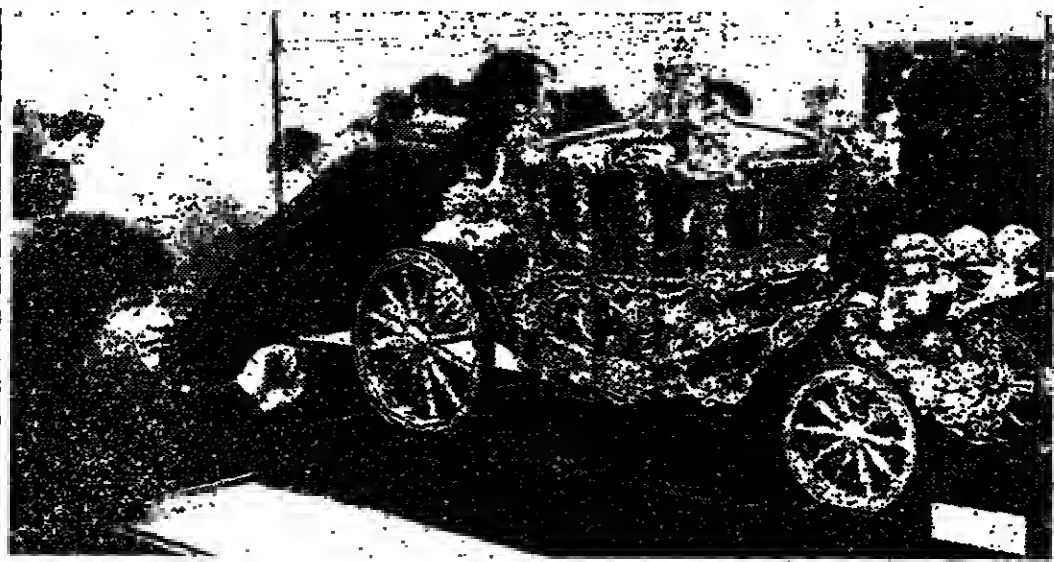
Signor Berlinguer's insistence that he does not intend retreating into opposition, is a sign that he now regards his party's position as governmental, despite its weakness in his own rank and file.

If he is to obtain his more limited demands, there must be some concession on the part of the Christian Democrats. Their official standpoint is not a model of clarity. While refusing a Communist presence in government, they have not convincingly withdrawn their objections to a position of equality for the Communists in an eventual parliamentary majority.

The right wing of the Christian Democratic Party appears in no mood to accord unquestioned democratic respectability to the Communist Party. Signor Berlinguer wants equal dignity as well as equal rights.

Signor Ugo La Malfa, the Republican leader who was consulted today by Signor Andreotti, agreed that in this third phase of talks there could be joint meetings of representatives of all the parties willing to draft the programme.

The leaders of the Liberal Party, however, explained to Signor Andreotti their increasing anxiety about a solution which would depend on a compromise in favour of the Communists. They see their ties to be with traditionally democratic parties.



This mouth-watering replica of the Queen's jubilee coach is one of 60 items at a Paris exhibition of works made entirely in sugar.

Second officer's death adds to Rome mystery

From Our Own Correspondent Rome, Feb 8

The mystery of the Secret Service officer found dead on January 30 at Bracciano, near Rome, deepened with confirmation today of the suicide of another officer three months ago to the same town.

The two men are said to have been friends. The first, Major Chiafari, was found shot in his car.

There have been other alleged suicides involving Army officers, but only now have reports emerged of the death of the major's friend, Captain Eugenio Capasso.

Spain and Portugal 'should join EEC at same time'

By Our Parliamentary Staff

Dr Owen, the Foreign Secretary, would much prefer Spain and Portugal to enter the European Community together, even if they need different transition periods after entry.

Giving evidence for 90 minutes to a subcommittee of the House of Lords European Communities Committee, Dr Owen said: "I am not in favour of the Community going through a whole decade of continuous adhesion. Potentially that is very disruptive."

He hoped that the substantive negotiations with Greece could be concluded this year and the Commission's application would be forthcoming in March or April.

Dr Owen reiterated the alarm he had expressed at the foreign ministers' meeting on Tuesday at the delay in reaching a similar formal stage on the application from Spain. They should aim to have that by the end of this year.

He saw a danger that if the applications took too long, the Community response to the frustration caused might damage the very thing they were trying to encourage by bringing the new applicants into membership.

Early Spanish election is thought unlikely

From Harry Debelius Madrid, Feb 8

Opposition politicians generally gave little credit here today to a statement by a government party spokesman to the effect that Senor Suarez, the Prime Minister, might call a general election before the summer.

The statement made newspaper headlines last night in Madrid, but it was laughed off today by Spain's foremost political cartoonists, periods, in the independent Madrid daily El País. In the cartoon, the Prime Minister, from the top of his pillar of power, orders his interior minister "to organize the ceremony of confusion."

Socialist sources doubted that Senor Suarez's party, the Centre Democratic Union, would risk the adventure, in view of unfavourable opinion polls. Communist sources said the ruling party would have to exploit assumed favourable public reaction to the constitution, once it had been approved, to make such a strategy worth while.

It would be relatively easy for the opposition parties to claim credit as well for the confusion, as the draft was prepared by a joint congressional committee.

A centre Democratic Union spokesman said calling a general election before summer was merely "one of a number of possibilities." Such a course would not be chosen before final approval of the Constitution in a referendum.

If the plan for an early election is serious, however, it could be an attempt by Senor Suarez's party to take advantage of the fact that municipal authorities and provincial delegations of the central government are still appointed rather than elected officials. The Government's promise to hold municipal elections by the end of last year is still unfulfilled.

Political observers speculated that the ruling party made the election announcement to steal headlines from Senor Felipe Gonzalez, leader of the Spanish Socialist Workers' Party. On Monday, a public reaction to the constitution, once it had been approved, to make such a strategy worth while.

It would be relatively easy for the opposition parties to claim credit as well for the confusion, as the draft was prepared by a joint congressional committee.

Tiger Moth beats storm

Rome, Feb 8—Flight Lieutenant David Cyster, of the RAF, brought his Tiger Moth biplane down to 1,000ft over stormy seas today to avoid a snow storm on the second leg of his commemorative solo flight to Australia.

He landed in Rome after a five-hour flight from Mar-seilles. The snow storm over northern Sardinia, with winds blowing up to 40 knots, forced him to make a loop detour and drop altitude.

Flight Lieutenant Cyster hopes to reach Darwin on February 28. He plans to leave tomorrow for either Corfu or Crete.—Reuters.

Republicans shift their appeal from right to left of centre

St Giscard votes sought

Charles Hargrove Feb 8

Republican Party, offshoot until its reorganization in May, 1977, as the Federation of Independent Republicans, is the of President Giscard, and is popularly known as the Gaullists. It is the largest—after the Gaullists—the parties which jointly governed France until 1962.

His purpose until 1974 launch M Giscard d'Estaing as the pre-candidate for the presidential election, and since his election provide him with a of loyal supporters in out and a vehicle for ad of his liberal and philosophy.

is an uphill task in a whose history for the 10 years has been by long spells of conservatism punctuated by short bursts of revolutionary fever, and by the ce in its political psychology of Bonapartist authority and moderate social.

Republican Party is dedicated to the idea that this isle must be broken. It that the majority of in want to be gov in the centre, and not or the right.

almost from the outset id with a problem of identity. It came into as an offshoot of the ms and Peasants, the liberal French right, with the properties of economic interests.

led to General de Gaulle's maintained a freedom of criticism, was nothing particular about it, save

for M Giscard d'Estaing and a small brain trust of young reformist senior civil servants. The President himself was elected in 1974 more from a desire of the majority of voters to stop the left, than from support for his policy of moderate change.

A turning point came last May, when the party became the Republican Party, a change symbolic of the break with the old independent right. An effort was made under a new and younger leadership to shift its political orientation from right to left of centre, transform it from a party of notables into one of militants, and emphasize its reformist character.

The immediate object was to recapture that 2 to 3 per cent of those who had voted for M Giscard d'Estaing in 1974 and since strayed to the Socialist camp.

The change has been made too late to guarantee success in March, but the transformation and rejuvenation of the party has been effective. The Republicans now claim that they have a distinctly more popular image than the Gaullist Rassemblement of M Jacques Chirac.

In opinion polls, its popularity is two or three points ahead of the Gaullists. The party had 56 members in the outgoing National Assembly.

The French Elections

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it Breton separatists it setting off bombs

Own Correspondent

Members of the Breton Front appeared in court today where they 3 different bombings since 1975.

The most serious, in St Brieuc, caused 10m of film worth of the courthouse in t, all men aged between 30, were arrested in St Brieuc stopped a week ago as they g part of the group's ing up the network, also found of the servers, hundreds of

cartridges, 150lb of dynamite, 400 detonators and 100 yards of fuse as well as timing mechanisms and masks.

The bombings admitted by the group also included a police garage, a tax office, a bank, an electricity office, the St Malo courthouse and a statue in Broons to Bertrand du Guesclin, a fourteenth-century Breton soldier who is considered by the autonomists to be a traitor.

During the night the ex-offices in Roscoff (Côtes-du-Nord) and Carhaix-Plouguer (Finistère) were both damaged by bomb attacks. The police believe the bomb attacks were carried out to prove that, in spite of the arrests, the Liberation Front could still strike.

in printers over ter deal

Own Correspondent

r printers in Düsseldorf and Frankfurt ke after a sharp sec in negotiations on ter processing of opy.

rs' union called for the three publications refused to its proposals for working conditions ew techniques are. More strikes were other cities to-

lown came only two r West German blishers and jour-red close to agree-use of the video and items which would the process by ouralist's report printing press. The ave been dragging mths.

Protest against treatment of hijack victims

Berlin, Feb 8.—East German authorities today of violating international law by their treatment of passengers on board an airliner hijacked to Frankfurt on Monday.

Thirty-three East Germans were among the 41 passengers in the Czechoslovak jet hijacked during a flight from East Berlin to Prague. Three of them decided to stay in the West and the Czechoslovak hijacker asked for political asylum.

The East Berlin newspaper Neues Deutschland said that the passengers had been needlessly interrogated for seven hours and refused permission to talk to East German diplomats. The attitude of the West German police was "a scandal" and the treatment of the hijacking a violation of "all international laws and regulations".—Reuters.

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OVERSEAS

Carter protests over Sinai settlements widen rift with Israel

From Patrick Brogan
Washington, Feb 8

The dispute between the United States and Israel over the new Jewish settlements in occupied Sinai and the West Bank has been sharpened by an announcement that President Carter sent three messages of protest to Mr. Begin, the Israeli Prime Minister, last month.

The details given by the State Department do not elucidate the question of whether Mr. Begin and his Foreign Minister, Mr. Dayan, promised Mr. Carter last year that there would be no more settlements, but they do make the American position plain.

Mr. Carter is convinced that the settlements are illegal under the Geneva Convention and that they constitute a barrier to peace. He has said so before and the fact that the public rebuke to Israel should be issued while President Sadat is in Washington further emphasizes his position.

Mr. Sadat takes objection chiefly to the Israeli settlements in Sinai. He is not impressed by the Israeli contention that the desert was empty until they got there, or by their offer to recognize Egyptian sovereignty over the settlements provided that the Israeli Army can stay to protect them.

He considers that to be annexation by another name. The Americans agree with him. They cannot see why peace should be jeopardized by a couple of thousand settlers in the northeast Sinai.

In his speech on Monday, Mr. Sadat denounced Israeli preoccupation with security. "When we showed our appreciation of their need to feel secure, they began to put every conceivable item under the heading of security."

"The annexation of territory became a matter of security. The establishment of illegal settlements on other people's land became a matter of security, keeping the Palestinians constantly under occupation

and subjugation is a matter of security."

Here, the Americans might part company with Mr. Sadat. They recognize that Israel has real, long-term security needs and cannot rely on the good will of an elderly Egyptian President with a heart condition.

Last night's announcement is certainly the closest thing so far to a real exercise of American pressure on Israel.

According to the State Department, Mr. Begin and Mr. Dayan informed the American Ambassador in Tel Aviv on January 5 of Israeli settlement plans in Sinai and the West Bank.

"On January 6," the statement said, "the Administration sent a strong reply. The reply expressed our concern about new settlement reports, particularly those of the Sinai. The reply was in the form of a personal message from the President."

A similar exchange took place on January 9 and 10, and on January 27 Mr. Carter sent a further protest about the settlement at Shiloh. Michael Leapman writes from New York: Mr. Dayan held out little hope of an early agreement with the Egyptians when he addressed a meeting of Jewish organizations in New York.

He said the talks with Egypt had turned into a "vicious circle" because President Sadat was not prepared to do a separate deal with Israel, but wanted to involve at least Jordan as well.

Alan McGregor writes from Geneva: Mr. Begin told a press conference after arriving in Geneva that the supply of offensive weapons to Egypt by the United States "would be a very negative development."

Asked how it came about that Israel and the Soviet Union were backing the same party—Ethiopia—in the Horn of Africa conflict, he said: "It sometimes happens in politics that everybody has got his own reasons."

Mr. Begin is in Geneva for two days, of talks with European Jewish leaders.

Presidents uphold Palestinian rights

Continued from page 1

Carter will send recommendations on arms sales to Congress. A statement issued after Mr. Sadat had left repeated the American position on the chief issues involved. It was full of phrases expressing the good relations between the two governments.

The two Presidents concluded, according to the statement, "that the mutual trust and understanding between them, reinforced by these meetings, will be extremely useful in helping to maintain momentum towards their common goal of peace in the Middle East." Mr. Carter will "spare no effort in seeking ways to move the peace process forward."

The statement, and Mr. Carter's remarks at the farewell ceremony, reaffirmed America's "historic commitments to the security of Israel." The phraseology of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 242 is repeatedly cited in the document.

"The settlement," it says, "must be based on all the principles of Security Council Resolution 242, including withdrawal of Israeli armed forces from the territories occupied in 1967, and the right of every state in the area to live in peace within secure and recognized boundaries. Resolution 242 is applicable to all fronts of the conflict."

The American statement went on to say that "the President reaffirmed what he said at his meeting with President Sadat in Aswan (on) January 4. There must be a resolution of the Palestinian problem in all its aspects; it must recognize the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and enable the Palestinians to participate in the determination of their own future."

Mr. Carter "reaffirmed the longstanding American view that Israeli settlements in occupied territory are contrary to international law and an obstacle to peace, and that further settlement activity would be inconsistent with the effort to reach a peace settlement."



Snowscape: Cars buried in snow give an oddly surreal look to a normally busy Manhattan street.

Looters arrested in snowbound New England

From Our Own Correspondent

New York, Feb 8
The Federal Government has declared most of snowbound New England a disaster area and Mr. Hugh Carey, the Governor of New York, wants the designation extended to his state also. The declaration is a technical device to enable Washington to provide emergency aid.

New England, which had more snow and stronger winds than New York, was the worst hit area of the country. The governors of Massachusetts and Connecticut made it an offence for people to attempt to travel at all except in emergencies. Boston's Logan airport was open today only to aircraft bringing emergency supplies.

Looting occurred in some towns, and 110 looters were arrested in Boston and Providence, Rhode Island. Some of them made the rounds of deserted shops in snowmobiles. Troops of the National Guard called out to help stranded travellers and distressed householders, had also to patrol shopping streets to prevent looting.

The storms caused a further power breakdown in Boston today similar to the one that deprived thousands of households of electricity for most of yesterday.

It was cold, clear and sunny in New York and much of the north-eastern United States. Airports were beginning to reopen, freeing passengers who had been stranded in packed hotels all across the country.

One airline, unable to get rooms for 200 passengers in New York, gave them blankets and bedded them down on Monday and Tuesday nights in a jumbo jet.

New York's three airports were open this afternoon after a 48-hour closing. With the backing of stranded passengers, it will be a day or so before schedules return to anything approaching normal.

Although the word disaster has been used this week so often as to devalue it, for many the blizzard can aptly be so described. Many deaths have been attributed to it, and Mr. Carey said that financial losses in New York state amount to \$35m (about £18m).

On the coasts of the north-eastern states, the strong winds and high tides caused serious flooding. On Long Island, east of New York, several dozen holiday homes were swept into the sea, and many ships reported difficulties.

Long Island remains the worst affected part of the New York area. Several thousand cars are still stranded on the Long Island expressway and other roads. Some motorists, encouraged by the bright sunshine, tried to drive today and succeeded only in adding to the number of disabled vehicles.

There has been bad weather on the west coast, too, with floods along the California coast. This storm could travel across the country and cause another blizzard in the east in a few days.

Fierce battle leaves 30 dead in Beirut

Beirut, Feb 8.—At least 30 people were killed today in fierce Syrian-Lebanese fighting which spread from the outskirts of war-shattered Beirut to the heart of the Christian eastern sector, right-wing sources said tonight. They said that at least 30 others were wounded.

The dead included five Syrian soldiers killed in an attempt to storm the headquarters of the right-wing National Liberal Party in the Christian district of Ashrafieh.

The Syrian troops were said to have used machine guns and light automatic weapons. "They attacked us for three hours," a party spokesman said. "After we agreed on a cease-fire, they withdrew only to attack again."

Automatic fire could be heard over the telephone, as the spokesman gave his account of the action. He said that two bullets ploughed into the office of Mr. Camille Chamoun, the party chairman, who was Lebanese President during the 1958 civil war which ended with the deployment of United States Marines in Beirut.

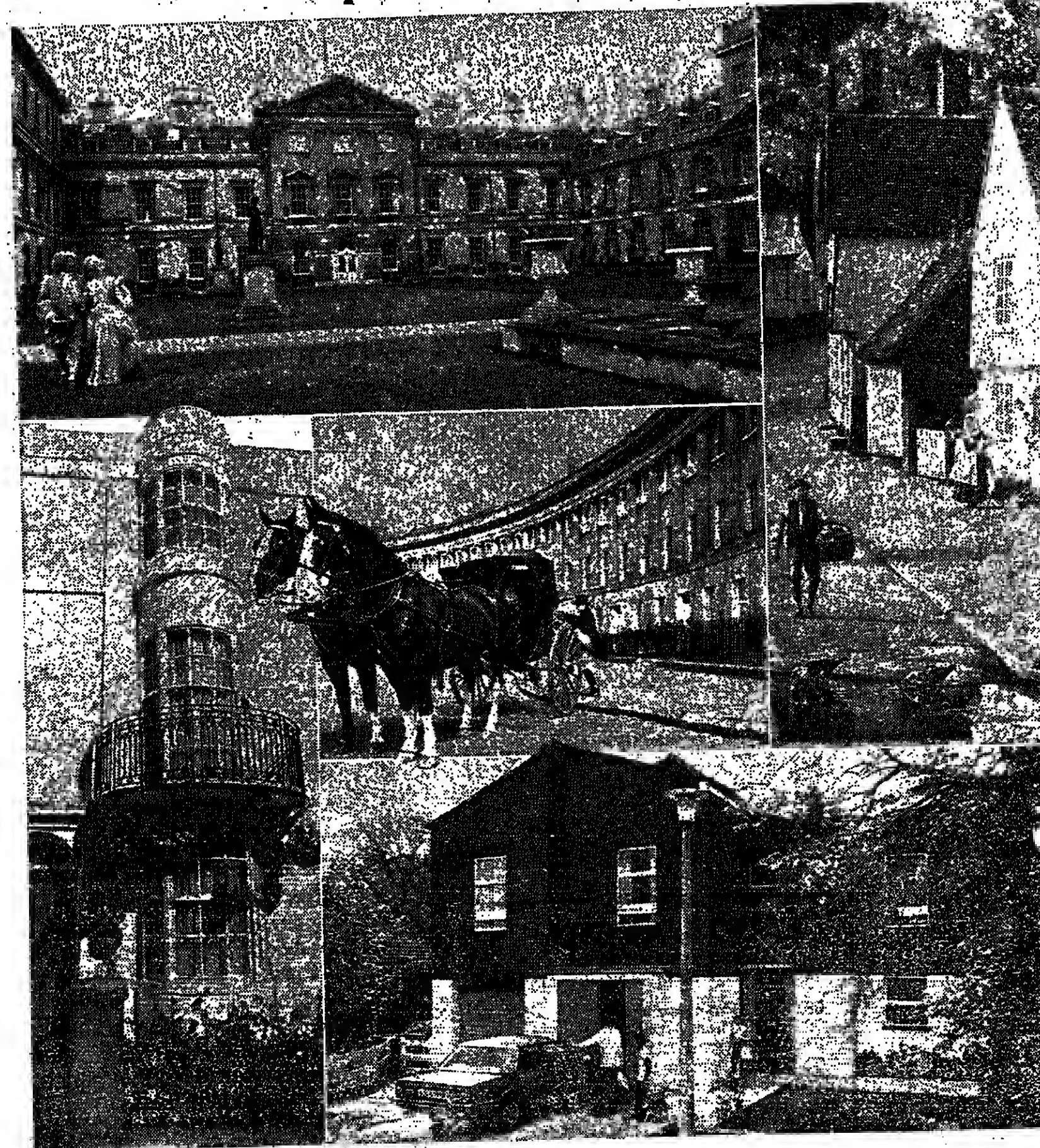
"But President Chamoun is unhurt," the spokesman said. Damascus: Syrians went to the polls today in a referendum to decide whether President Assad should have a second seven-year term. There were indications that the vote would be comfortably in his favour, officials reported.—Reuters and Agence France Presse.

PLO kills Arab collaborator

Beirut, Feb 8.—Palestinian guerrillas claimed responsibility for the killing in Ramallah of a prominent West Bank Arab businessman, and denounced him as a collaborator with the Israeli authorities.

An official statement issued here by the Palestine Liberation Organization, which has been the main force for many years against Israel, said: "Our people are against any collaboration with the Israeli authorities."

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Senate vote for nuclear safeguards

From Our Own Correspondent
Washington, Feb 8

After weeks of argument by nuclear industry supporters, the Senate has approved by an overwhelming majority new legislation designed to prevent American nuclear exports from being used for military purposes.

The nuclear non-proliferation Bill, which secured the unanimous approval of the House of Representatives last year, will now go to a joint committee of the Senate and the House for final approval. It is then expected to be signed promptly into law by President Carter, who has strongly supported the draft legislation.

The new rules would use a combination of incentives and sanctions to strengthen existing measures to prevent foreign governments or terrorists from diverting peaceful nuclear materials to build weapons.

American supplies of nuclear equipment and fuel would be granted only if importing nations maintained international safeguards against diversion of materials; agreed not to explode a nuclear device with American nuclear materials; maintained adequate security on exports; and sought American approval before reprocessing material to another country or reprocessing spent fuel.

Ethiopian planes 'hit' two Somali towns

From Charles Harrison
Nairobi, Feb 8

Somalia claimed today that Ethiopian jet aircraft had raided the northern Somali cities of Hargeisa and Berbera. Officials in Mogadishu, the Somali capital, said four aircraft attacked the port of Berbera while two attacked Hargeisa, but they were driven off by anti-aircraft fire.

Soviet MiG21 and American F5 aircraft were involved, the reports said. But there were no details on casualties or damage caused.

President Siad Barre of Somalia returned to Mogadishu only yesterday after spending three days in the northern region where he had been discussing with Somali military commanders.

The air attacks were the latest in a series of incursions into Somali territory by Ethiopian aircraft, none of which has been admitted by the Ethiopian authorities. Heavy fighting is continuing inside Ethiopia where Government forces, which Somalia says are heavily reinforced by Cuban and Soviet personnel, are attacking positions of the western Somali Liberation Front (WSLF).

WSLF officials in Mogadishu said today that two Ethiopian aircraft had been shot down over Hargeisa, which was captured by the WSLF in January. The aircraft, described as Soviet T55s and T62s, had been destroyed in fighting north of Dire Dawa, along the railway line to Djibouti.

The Ethiopian offensive is said to be concentrated in two directions—west from Dire Dawa towards the frontier with Djibouti, and east from Harar towards Jijiga and the Somali frontier.

The WSLF said today that their forces remained under heavy air and ground attack which had forced them to pull back from some positions in the Almar mountains north of Harar. They denied Ethiopian claims that their forces had been routed, but said their forward positions were unable to withstand the assault by "sleazy" artillery directed by Cuban and Soviet personnel.

Cuban airborne troops were also involved, the WSLF claimed, and Soviet helicopters had been used for artillery and missile spotting, as well as for transport duties.

President Siad Barre has had discussions in Mogadishu with Egyptian Foreign Minister, Ezzat el-Sherpieny, and Nigerian Foreign Minister, Shugart Azangba, in a mediation mission from the Organisation of African Unity.

Congress call for gun controls

From David Cross
Washington, Feb 8

President Carter is being urged by Congress to take "immediate steps" to curtail the availability of hand guns in the United States as part of an Administration campaign to control crime.

The appeal comes from Mr. John Conyers, chairman of the subcommittee on crime of the House of Representatives. The House has passed a bill to restrict the effectiveness of existing gun control legislation. The study concludes that the increase in violent crime in America since the mid-1960s has been matched by a rise in the number of firearms in circulation.

According to the study, there were an estimated 147,500,000 firearms in the United States in 1975, of which about 44,000,000 were "hand guns".

Polls indicated that 47 per cent of all households owned one or more weapons and of these 49 per cent owned "hand guns", 70 per cent rifles, and 60 per cent shot guns.

Until 1965 the number of firearms produced or imported for private sale had remained fairly stable at approximately two million a year. By 1975, however, the number had more than doubled, to 6,900,000. During the same period the firearm murder rate almost doubled, to 9,200. In 1976 the firearm robbery rate was estimated to have more than doubled.

In the South, where 61 per cent of households own guns, the firearm murder and assault rates are much higher than in the East, where only 29 per cent of families own guns.

One of the biggest difficulties in restricting access to arms is the lack of uniformity in state and local laws. Thus in New York and Detroit, where such registration and licensing of the handgun is in force, most of the handguns seized by the police were bought elsewhere.

In Dallas, Atlanta and Los Angeles, where gun control laws are lax, more than 80 per cent of the weapons seized were purchased locally.

The bill would require that all firearms be registered and licensed, and that all handguns be licensed and licensed to the owner.

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Caribbean plea to Britain over Belize

From Our Correspondent
Nicosia, Feb 8

Two senior Turkish officials arrived in Cyprus from Ankara today to help draft the proposals the Turkish Cypriot side is to submit in preparation for a resumption of the deadlocked intercommunal peace talks.

They are Professor Muzaffer Soyas, a close aide of Mr. Bulent Ecevit, the Turkish Prime Minister, and representatives in Turkey of Amnesty International, and Mr. Turgut Tulumen, head of the Greece-Cyprus desk of the Turkish Foreign Ministry.

Mr. Ecevit promised Dr. Kurt Waldheim, the United Nations Secretary-General, last month that the Turkish proposals on the territorial aspect and new proposals on the constitutional aspect of the problem so that the peace talks could be resumed.

The talks collapsed last April when the Turkish Cypriot side refused to submit any proposals on the territorial aspect after the Greek Cypriot side rejected its proposals on the constitutional aspect.

The Turkish proposals are to be submitted to Dr. Waldheim who will then decide, after consultations with the Greek Cypriot side, whether they can form a basis for resuming negotiations.

This procedure was adopted after insistence by the Greek Cypriot side that the more serious mission of proposals by the Turkish side would not be enough.

Mr. Soyas Kyprionos, the new Cyprus President and Greek Cypriot leader, has emphasized repeatedly in recent statements that his side cannot make further concessions.

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PARLIAMENT, February 8, 1978

Minister considering how to have debate on Windscale report

House of Commons

The fullest information must be made available to the public before the Government took new steps in the development of nuclear energy, Mr Peter Shore, Secretary of State for the Environment, said when answering questions on the report of the Windscale inquiry. He added that he was studying the report which he had received on January 26 and the way of handling it.

Mr Frank Holey (Sheffield, Ebley, Lab)—This will be a classic document in the ongoing controversy about nuclear power. Will the minister be able to tell us also, considering the possibility of publishing a popular digest of it for those who cannot afford the full document?

Will he be able to tell us if he will be able to debate the report before he comes to any firm conclusion about his findings? Mr Shore—Of course it is normal to publish reports. I will give some thought to the publication of a popular version. I am aware that it is a difficult task to hold a debate before a decision is taken. There are difficulties but I am considering them.

Mr Peter Emery (Hendon, C)—While there is obviously much concern, there has been a large amount of information which has been used by certain pressure groups in a most emotive manner to detract from and even perhaps undermine the ability of the Windscale investigating committee to obtain approval. It could bring a major economic benefit to the country.

Will he therefore underline that what he is interested in is factual information, not the emotive information? Will he come to a decision as quickly as possible because it does have economic aspects which are of great importance?

Mr Shore—I have said that among the vast amount of material which was received and considered by the Parker Inquiry some was ill informed. But I think the great mass of it was serious information by people who are turning their minds to this major matter with great interest. I take his point that a decision is needed without undue delay and it was precisely my promise which I gave to the House more than a

Housing resources being rejected

Mr Reginald Freeson, Minister for Housing and Construction, expressed concern that the resources the Government were making available were being rejected by a growing number of local authorities. This was causing great disturbance in the housing programmes.

He informed Mr Frank Aldous (Salford, East, Lab) that at present about 200,000 public sector homes were under construction in Great Britain and that about 150,000 completions in 1978. Completions for following years would depend on the balance of investment between building, housing, conversion and rehabilitation within the overall housing programmes.

Mr Aldous—Will the minister tell the Cabinet that more of the budget in North Sea oil and gas should be going on housing than at present planned?

The recent public expenditure survey shows that in the next two years £536m has been cut from public housing, improvement, acquisition and land purchase. In the next four years only a half of that is to be restored. It is not good enough.

Mr Freeson (Brent, East, Lab)—Although there have been cuts in either planned or prospective pub-

lic expenditure in recent times the Government have not reduced this year and years to come, arising from the drop in investment as a result of interest changes. The Government are making available the resources we make available to public sector authorities is taken up. My great concern is that some of the resources which I have said I wish to see in the future to see an increase in that expenditure.

Mr Aldous—Mr Freeson, I am concerned about that as well. I wish to see as much attention paid in future to maintaining and improving existing stock, this adds to the stock as a whole.

My concern is that the available resources which are being rejected are being rejected by a growing number of authorities and this is causing great disturbance in our housing programmes.

In reply to a further question, he said: In cooperation with the local authority associations there has been a special study which has produced a report on housing programmes. I expect some good results to come from that.

Making best use of North Sea oil revenues

Lord of Lords

Lord Selkirk, calling attention to the opportunities available to rebuild the economy from the development of North Sea oil and gas, said that the Government's policies towards it more than he feared the technological and other difficulties related to such development.

Had its development been under a single government, of whichever party, it would have been financed to the extent that it had.

This year the Government were expected to take about 40 per cent of the revenue from the oil and gas. In 1980, that would be a rise in Government revenue from the North Sea from £500m to £700m. But that £200m was not new money because much of the resources of the North Sea had been discovered and the Government had been making use of it.

Lord Selkirk said that the Government had been making use of the oil and gas for a long time. He said that the Government had been making use of the oil and gas for a long time. He said that the Government had been making use of the oil and gas for a long time.

Viscount Simon (L) said that the country would spend in obtaining oil far more than the resources used to spend on investment and exportation only to run off from outside at pre-1973 prices. In other words, the country would not get off any cheaper from the North Sea in real terms.

The first claim on the revenue should be the encouragement of modernization and expansion of industry. Fiscal measures made possible by the oil revenues would help.

Lord Boyd-Carpenter (C) said Britain was facing financial recovery but was blighted by the reality of static and declining investment and inadequate rates of productivity. The bounty of providence of the North Sea's resources would almost certainly be the last chance to get things right.

Lord Balogh (Lab) said that the country must use whatever it derived from North Sea oil for purposes of investment and for the possibility of industrial revival, and the only lasting guarantee she had for the survival of a gentle and comfortable life was to mobilize all the country's resources across the mixed economy.

Financial help to areas that suffered damage in floods and gales

Financial assistance is to be given to authorities whose areas suffered substantial damage in the floods and gales in November 1977 and January 1978. Mr Peter Shore, Secretary of State for the Environment, announced during the question time.

In order to ensure (he said) that local authorities do not have to carry an excessive burden, a local authority that has incurred as a direct result of these floods and gales an additional expenditure of more than £100,000 in the past two years will receive by way of special financial assistance 75 per cent of that excess.

Mr Shore (Tower Hamlets, Stepney and Poplar, Lab)—The Government are applying the application of this formula will be given to local authorities who will, of course, have to submit claims for consideration to my department.

A supplementary estimate will be presented to Parliament for approval at the earliest opportunity.

Mr Michael Brotherton (Louth, C)—That reply will give considerable pleasure particularly in places such as Cleethorpe which has suffered twice from floods in the past two years. Floods there will be further flooding at high tides will still help be made available?

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Mr Michael Albion, an Opposition spokesman on the Environment (Barkston Ash, C)—The announcement will be generally welcomed. It is the money authorities which are in a low position in the rate-payers who are already suffering an 11p increase over last year.

Mr Shore—It is related to the resources of the particular area. I do not think any requirement beyond perhaps 2 per cent on the average rate bill will accrue in people in the local authorities concerned. The Government will be able to help with this.

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Pressure from both sides for wider franchise in European elections

The Opposition moved an amendment to the European Communities Bill to extend the franchise to all British citizens living in the European Community when the bill is passed.

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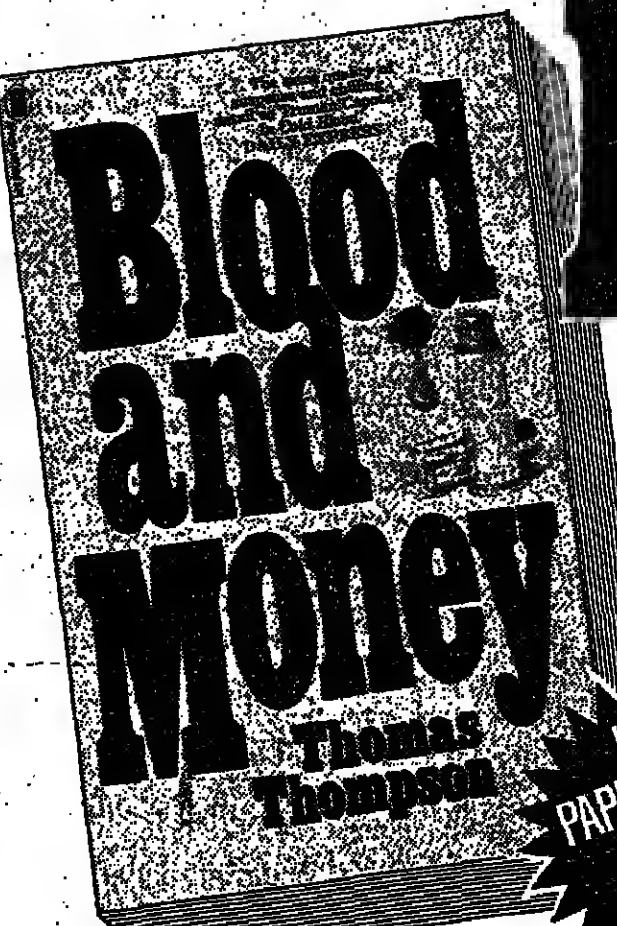
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and in the *Poésies* he also provides Ducasse's few known letters, and quotes extensively and with glee from the untrustworthy reminiscences of unlikely friends: "He wrote only at night, seated at his piano. He wanted to declaim, you know," says the Hammer, "and he played with the chords." His two books are committed not just to translating—carrying over—the writing, but the whole phenomenon.

And yet, and yet. I have to admit that to me, and to I suppose, the poor Comte remains obstinately poor Ducasse: clever, but—puerile. In English he seems so close to strip cartoon, grand guignol, Hammer films, the Rocky Horror Show. The French like the way he can't seem to wobble rise above the physical nastiness. To use a Ducasse pun, Laotremont simply won't wash. And yet, perversely, in French: he does seem to work: there is a kind of mad grandeur, a linguistic virtuosity, the sort of thing that carries pornography, the childish *Maldorors* seem to evaporate into some more abstract revolt. It may only be the difference between a native language, and a learned one; but it may not. It doesn't seem to me that the translation, the only real equivalent to *Maldoror* in English, is any easier to place or judge: is perhaps Ted Hughes' *Crow: From the Life and Songs of the Crow* (1970). *Maldoror* and *Crow* would recognize each other; they

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THE ARTS

The short Long trail to cinema success

Close on the heels of the Australian film *Caddie*, released here recently to such appreciative reviews, another film from Down Under, *The Picture Show Man*, was shown at the London Film Festival. The two have more in common than their country of origin. Both were written by an earnest, friendly and very realistic member of four, Joan Long, who says that had she been a man and not lost 10 years of her career through child-raising, she would now be 39.

Ms Long, as she would probably like to be addressed, is now determined to make, up for those years, and observers of the Australian film scene are predicting that she will soon add directing to her feature film repertoire.

For Ms Long is among those most responsible for the present renaissance in the Australian cinema.

Some pretty terrible films have been made in Australia—the sort of thing you might have sat through as a B movie in 1948 before everyone had television. Exiled Australian film fans still enjoy them monthly in the basement cinema in Australia House. But lately a degree of sophistication has been creeping in.

One reason according to Ms Long is that Australia has a new, inner-directed vitality. My generation, she feels, looked to England as a goal, left for London as soon as possible, and stayed on here if they possibly could. Now they pass through on a three-week tour of the Continent and go home. If they are going to move anywhere they will go to the States.

Ms Long herself has just come back from her first visit to America with a heightened appreciation of the power of the culture which she feels will permeate all her future work. "Although I had seen American films all my life I had never had any real idea of the Americans as people," she says. "In films, unlike plays, you can't confine your writing to the own country. You have to learn to communicate with people all over the world. America is after all the most lucrative market—I don't know whether this will make my films better, but it will change them."



Rod Taylor faces a challenge in *The Picture Show Man*

Ms Long's American triumph was to sell *The Picture Show Man*. Critics who saw it were very enthusiastic. One of them put it on his list of 1977's 10 best films, which is encouraging for a family picture which cost less than \$1m US and had an Australian director, crew and cast, including the picture show man himself John McMillon, who perfected his trade and his accent in Britain in the Sixties.

McMillon, who came here with Fred Zimmerman's *The Sun* downers, has a hint of W. C. Fields and a marvelous theatrical voice which does a great deal to give the film its charm. Another box-office help, no doubt, will be the Australian-born Rod Taylor, who despite his years in Hollywood, plays a rather unconvincing American.

There remains the film's title. It was to have been called *Pym's Travelling Pictures*, having been based on a slender autobiography offered by picture show man Lyle Penn to Ms Long when she was directing documentary films about the history of the Australian cinema. The metaphorical Ms Long said it would take her three years to get round to it, but she thought there might be a feature film in the story. Three years to the day she started to write, and with poignant timing Lyle Penn died this month shortly after giving it his seal of approval.

Under its new title the film has been confused in the States with Peter Bogdanovich's *The Last Picture Show*, which irritates Ms Long, but hasn't harmed business. For the similarity to Bogdanovich's work does not stop at the title, and Americans who hated his *Nickelodeon* are saying this film is everything the earlier one ought to have been.

The fact is Ms Long has

gone a long way to give substance to one Australian dream, which is to have something to say in the international field of cinema while not deserting its own heritage. With only 13 million inhabitants the industry cannot hope to make any ambitious movie and occupy its finance, solely on the domestic market. It is of course an extreme version of the problem which faces the British industry.

But Ms Long seems to have demonstrated several things about Australia at a time when the cinema as a whole is looking around for new life and new funds. First, the willingness, reliability and taste of the government-backed Australian Film Commission, who will come up with as much as 50 per cent of the investment in a property. This offers maximum security to private investors, particularly in view of the new ruling whereby the latter get their investment back first.

Secondly, the unexplored natural resources of the country, from technical expertise to the versatility of the land itself. Ms Long runs her production company from a house in an isolated hush gully only eight miles from the centre of Sydney. "When I was in Connecticut recently," she says, "I appreciated the

beauty of the countryside which was like a picture postcard. But I wanted for the Australian hush full of rocks and dead leaves and fallen branches and ragged trees."

And thirdly the tenacity of Australian women. Hitherto, says Ms Long, the country has been as male chauvinist as any in the world, and female militancy in the film industry is such that there is a Women's Film Festival held in Sydney which is apt to eliminate an entry if there has been one single significant man on the crew. "They practically won't allow men in the audience," she says.

The New York Women's Film Festival, by comparison, is a very broad-minded affair, and having seen *Caddie* in Cannes in 1975 the organizers were very anxious to screen it at their own function. The request was vetoed, against the wishes of Ms Long, by its American distributing agent who thought women's lib would give the film a bad name. "I always saw as the central concept of *Caddie* a woman alone in society," says the writer. "I have been married for nearly 24 years, but even among married people the co-setted woman hardly exists these days. If I was a young woman I know I would be carrying a banner and man-

ning the harricades. I wouldn't want my daughter to lose most of her active life to children."

Ms Long's daughter played Mick Jagger's younger sister in *Ned Kelly*. "At my age," says her mother, "there is only so much time and energy left, and I prefer to put my experiences as a woman into creative work."

Even then she requires a certain militancy. Ms Long started full-time work again because she knew she was being exploited as a free-lance scriptwriter working at home, while her journalist husband went out to work. "I knew they were bringing in equal pay for teachers," she says, "so I went for an interview and they sent me off to the leading girls' high school in Sydney." When a vacancy occurred she rejoined her former employers, Film Australia, and her very last pay cheque there was the very first equal pay cheque in the whole of her working life.

"The Labour government brought in equal pay to theory by graduated steps some years ago," she says. "I suppose they thought we would faint away and spend it all in one shop. It still doesn't mean you get it. First you have to get the job of some status to merit the pay-cheque."

Glenys Roberts

No time for carping

The Elocution of Benjamin Franklin Mayfair

Irving Wardle

Trailing four awards and a record-breaking tour, Steve J. Spear's monodrama may not be the great Australian play we have been waiting for, but it is certainly the occasion for a blissfully happy marriage between a performer and his material. We are fortunate to have lured Gordon Chater to the West End, and I shall be surprised if Mayfair audiences do not close around him with a grip of iron.

First appearing as a hefty mope enjoying his morning fantasy before a poster of Mick Jagger, Mr Chater plays a Sydney school teacher who keeps his working and private life strictly apart. When, as often happens, the phone rings, he answers it in a voice of golden purity that conjures up the exact Puccinian outline of the Shakespeare School of Speech and Drama (emblazoned on the window of Larry Eastwood's crimson boudoir east).

Left to himself, he converses amiably with a bust of Shakespeare (discreetly turning its face to the wall whenever there is a fantasy coming on), waxes through in bath-towels and female attire, and enjoys intimate little evenings, awash in erotic phantasies, with his less glamorous friend Bruce, a stockbroker.

It is in the course of "servicing the bard and soft palates of half Sydney" that he takes on young Benjamin: a beautiful and sexually precocious 12-year-old, who turns his teacher's head, supplies him with pornographic photographs, and otherwise paves the way for a raid on the premises by the police who find Mr Chater in full drag. Wagnerian blood will flow, on a cliff, as he blasts the daylight out of his hated cuckoo clock with a shotgun. When we next see him, it is in confinement in a mental hospital eight years later.

The brief second act, in

which we observe Mr Chater pathetically entertaining hopes of release, and undergoing the convulsions of love, despair and madness before swallowing an overdose of Maudsley, is too much even for this actor. Perhaps Australian philistinism and prudery ("Straighten that" would destroy a harmless and pathetic old deviate like this: but that is not what the character is about, and it is too late to wrench him so brusquely off the comic rails.

On its own terms, the first act cannot be faulted. I have never seen the telephone put to better use, nor the use of new costumes instead of new characters. The *tit-tit* and lesson scenes (seemingly spottily in Richard Wherret's production) need no second characters as Mr Chater plays an unstoppable characterbox; and anyway most of his pupils have speech defects. And the well articulated episodes enable him to build a character in the round, showing his friendships, his fantasies, his tactics as a teacher.

It is not, however, a portrait in depth. Under all his masks and joke voices, the character is a standard middle-aged queer. Also Mr Spear does the crucial issue by making him "strictly a fantasy man". Any hopes of a male counterpart to Lolita, with the Nabokovian moral that sexy 12-year-olds ought not to go around seducing helpless middle-aged gentlemen, are thus dashed, as there is no prospect of Mr Chater fondling more than a photograph.

As the actor happens to be Mr Chater, this is no occasion for carping. However, well-worn the stereotype, it is a joy to watch him collecting laughs by playing through the gags at high speed, soliloquy unwieldy pupils with hooveyed insincerity, turning the air blue with marvellous timed off-stage oaths, refiguring the battle of the Alamo in steek knicker and bra (which has put 100 feet first), dispatching Chaucer's pilgrims to the tomb at Howard Hughes, and striding manfully over to the shelves with the glad cry, "Good morning, Sydney! I see you've got another great day planned for me." Tony Hancock could not have improved on that.

RPO/Dutoit Festival Hall

Joan Chissell

All-praise to Charles Dutoit for eschewing a conventional overture on Tuesday in favour of Stravinsky's *Symphonies of Wind Instruments*, neatly if not hauntingly played by a section of the RPO.

Since it was written in homage to Debussy, Mr Dutoit returned to France after the interval for Berlioz's *Symphonic Fantastique*. There was much to enjoy in the like of the *Valse*, in the nuances of the *March*, in the variety of instrumental colour to the concluding *Witches' Sabbath*. Yet it was not the kind of performance that repays in the memory. Mr Dutoit liberally reproduced the score, rather than recreating it in all its true intensity and strangeness.

One of this symphony's most generous early champions was

Schumann, represented by his piano concerto. The soloist, Stephen Bishop-Kovacevic, first played it when aged 14 so we were right to still remain his favourite concerto.

Schumann wrote it for his pianist wife, and many eminent ladies have laid claim to it ever since, including Mr Bishop-Kovacevic's own teacher, Myra Hess. He wrote it, however, less determined than he should not sound ladylike. True, he was tender with the first movement's plaintive A minor theme and yielding in all its lyrical ruminations. But at the slightest rise of temperature he plunged into the fray with near-impetuous ardour, at uncommonly robust tone, even sacrificing refinement to the cadenza and coda in his excitement. He refused to prettify the slow movement's *grazioso* opening theme, and in the finale went all out for the allegro vivace. Instead of taking account of the curious metronome marking. It was certainly exhilarating. But should Schumann sound as inflammable as Tchaikovsky?

Sylvia Rosenberg Wignmore Hall

Barry Millington

In the first of her three Wignmore Hall recitals devoted to the music of Schubert and Bartok, the American violinist Sylvia Rosenberg was accompanied on Tuesday by her fellow-countryman Craig Sheppard. The two works in the first half of their programme called for quite different approaches to ensemble playing. A fairly prominent role is given to the piano in Schubert's *Sonatina* in G minor, D403, and the two players gave and took as though they had been partnering each other for years.

Bartok's violin sonata No 1, on the other hand, allows little common ground between violin and piano, save the number of bars; that is to say, the choral configurations and rhythmic patterns of each part are not only similar but often actually in opposition to one another, while their thematic material is independent to an extreme degree. Consequently there is a formidable difficulty in communication for the performers in this work. Sylvia Rosenberg and Craig Sheppard tackled it successfully, by tuning their responses to the music so that even if their motion was in parallel lines it was at least in the same direction.

An easier work, at least from the audience's point of view, is Bartok's *Rhapsody No 1*, where the formal conventionality of the two Magyar movements, "Lasso" and "Friss", is matched by more readily apprehended melodic and harmonic material. Both performers were totally in command here, without the risk of the complacency that sometimes springs from complete security.

For Schubert's *Adagio* and *Rondo* in A major, D438, Miss Rosenberg was joined by the Albert Strakosky, augmented by double bass. The carefree mood of the *Rondo*, caught admirably by the players, was just what was needed to balance the austere of the earlier Bartok sonata.

Colin Tilney Purcell Room

Thomas Walker

An engaging argument, perhaps even a hidden polemic, lay behind Colin Tilney's harpsichord recital on Tuesday at the Purcell Room. Mr Tilney expressed it most directly in his programme, most pleading with *passio*, eloquence and wit for the flexibility of eighteenth-century Italian instruments and in particular their suitability for the sonatas of Domenico Scarlatti.

Whether or not a modern performance of Scarlatti on Italian harpsichords is as rare as he implied, the instrument which he chose yielded in all its simplicity sounds and effects unmatched by the wildest Technicolor of, say, a George Malcolm.

The original, copied by Clayton Garratt, was made by Vincenzo Sodi at Florence in 1782, and has a single manual with two eight-foot stops, as is standard. It, or at any rate its copy, has a rich, buzzing bass of electrifying impact, a crisp,

clean middle range and a slightly thin top, which occasionally did a little justice to Scarlatti's high flying lines.

I was surprised at the rather middle-of-the-road character of the seven sonatas which Tilney played. Although some were technically very challenging, they were more contemplative than flashy, and showed little of Scarlatti's Spanishness, a more extreme collection would have put his hypothesis to its final test, but meanwhile I have only praise for his taste in sonority.

I also have little but praise for his incisive, buoyant, harmonically alive playing. His keen sense of the theatrical emerged with still greater clarity from performance of four amusing, quirky sonatas by Scarlatti's pupil, Antonio Soler.

In them Soler combines the harmonic shifts and phrase repetitions in his teacher with a more over-the-top, Bach or even Haydn. They deserve to be heard more often, preferably at the hands of Mr Tilney, who completed his eloquent plea with pieces by Froberger and Byrd.

Stanley Doron recreates the double feature

Stanley Doron goes back in the 1930s in his current project, *Double Feature*. The best bargain at the time was the double feature, two films for the price of one. *Double Feature* is

exactly that—two films linked by previews of forthcoming attractions and a thematic newsreel footage of the period.

George C. Scott heads a cast that includes Trish Van Dyke, Barbara Harris, Eli Wallach and Red Buttons. Most of the actors play dual roles.

Hemsley on Gianni Schicchi

An evocation of the eighth circle of hell is an improbable source for one of the world's most poignant comic operas; but in *Canto XXX* of Dante's *Inferno* you will find the story of Gianni Schicchi, impersonator for extraordinary whom the Donati family call in to revive old Donati's last hours and draft a more generous will. As it happens, Schicchi outwits them all with a mixture of grace and guile which would have made even Volpone stare. But is he a madcap scoundrel or a hell-bound rabidly biting Dante's translators are at odds on the issue, a point I put to Thomas Hemsley who sings the role in Colin Graham's new production of Schicchi at the Coliseum.

"To be honest, I think he's both!" The text certainly gives us a vivid sense of the disdain Schicchi feels for all those greedy, grasping citizens. That's the hell-bound. On the other hand, he really does enjoy guiling them; so there's the spite."

Thomas Hemsley began his operatic career in dazzling company in Bernard Miles' famous Mermaid Theatre production of *Die and Aeneas* with the famous Flanagan and Maggie Teyte.

"I went to Germany—not a very usual thing to do in those days—to learn the trade in

Aachen. Even in 1953 there was a very positive feel about the need to re-establish traditions after the war. I found that very stimulating—both the positive atmosphere and the feeling of being part of a tradition. I think there's a lot to be said for stability; and in those days you didn't have singers jetting in and out for odd performances. Sawallisch was the musical director and Wilhelm Fritzsche was chorus master. Fritzsche took enormous trouble over the younger singers. He started there as a violinist and was very proud of the musical style which Fritzsche, Busch, and then Karajan, had established in Aachen before the war."

Hemsley sang the principal lyric baritone roles from the start—Figaro, Guglielmo and, in his first season, Rigoletto. "In those days Rigoletto was thought of very much as a role for the lyric baritone, though nowadays it's usually given to an Amoson or an Iago, who can do the *Vendetta* marvelously but can't always manage the duets with his daughter. Isn't it fascinating, though, to observe how taste in vocal colour changes over the years? If you listen to some of the famous Verdi baritones of the past, Battistini, for instance, or even de Luca, who is really my baritone idol and who sang the first Gianni Schicchi, the sound

is much more brilliant than we're used to now. Closer to what they used, rather charmingly, to call 'short tenor'."

If de Luca was the first Gianni Schicchi can it really be the kind of *buffo* romp it's sometimes said to be? I think it's far from being a *buffo* romp! I'm quite pleased that I haven't seen the opera on the stage, because, looking at the score, there's no doubt in my mind that this is high comedy in the style of great ensemble operas like *Falstaff* and *Die Meistersinger*. Like all great comedy, it's a very serious work artistically. Puccini's sense of comedy is beautifully imagined and very, very precisely embodied in the score; which means you can't impose upon it very far without damaging it. In fact, the comedy is often, of a very sophisticated, semantic kind—which makes me sorry that I haven't had the chance to prepare the role in Italian.

Like *Il tabarro*, the score of *Gianni Schicchi* carries precise ages for nearly all the characters. Schicchi is 50, a fact which has not escaped Thomas Hemsley, who was born in Leicestershire in 1927.



Thomas Hemsley

London debuts

If Roy Bogen's Wignmore Hall recital belongs in the London debut canon at all, it is only in the literal sense, for she is an accomplished soprano and has already, especially in the United States, something of a reputation. She began bodily with an aria from J. C. Bach's *Amadis des Gaules*, not bawling at its cadential high C. After a heartsearching account of Donizetti's tragic song "La mèrte et l'enfant", Miss Bogen showed that she was able to lighten her voice for two songs in more playful mood by Gluck. A fine scena and aria from Bellini's *Il pirata* was given with feeling, but it also brought to prominence a deficiency in tone control by which loud notes emerge unprepared, and which Miss Bogen needs to remedy if she is to make the most of her wide range and powerful voice.

It may not have been the custom of Strauss and his wife to perform whole sets of Lieder at a time, but it can be made to work well. Miss Bogen gave strongly characterized readings of the six in Op 56, and her accompanist Stewart Nash coped ably with such intricacies as the whirling demisemiquavers of "Frühlingsfeier". If "Die heiligen drei Könige" conveyed little of the mystery or weariness of the three kings' mission, that was almost inevitable without the

aid of Strauss's orchestral accompaniment.

Our gratitude is due to Miss Bogen for presenting three unfamiliar Kurt Weill songs. A first London performance was claimed for them, and certainly *Der Silbersee* was completely unknown until the Holland Festival performance several years back. Miss Bogen sang the Weill idiom nicely, with its casual arrogance, dropping easily into semi-speech. Much as I disapprove of encroaches in principle, I stayed home for more Weill; it was a bonus for Straussians, however.

Hilseya Sermet's programme for his piano recital the following evening might have been designed to show that he, too, had great technical skills. Four substantial works among them: Mussorgsky's *Pictures at an Exhibition* and Ravel's *Gaspard de la nuit*. There were times in the Mussorgsky when Mr Sermet's forthright playing seemed unduly aggressive, and a tendency to be strident in the more extrovert passages of Schumann's *Papillons* confirmed that he had misjudged the intimate acoustic of the Wignmore Hall. This aside, both *Papillons* and *Pictures* received commanding performances with every attention paid to incidental detail. After the interval Mr Sermet made the necessary adjustment and the peccavisse features of Bartok's suite *Out of Doors*

(even in the furious galloping of the *Fina Chasse*) were projected powerfully yet without the former suggestion of brutality.

Two of the four artists sharing the South East Arts Young Musicians' Platform at the Wignmore Hall were giving their London debut: the soprano Helen Walker and the flautist Paul Edmund Davies. Miss Walker has an attractive voice which she used with style in Liszt's *Three Petrarch Sonnets* and Handel's "Mio caro bene". Once settled in a phrase she endowed it with her own musical personality, but often the intonation of the phrase itself suffered most in this respect, and neither singer nor accompanist worked among the able to sustain the broad tempo chosen. As a result, in the same composer's "Die Forelle" neither had the necessary flexibility in colour, individual words or phrases. Both he and his accompanist gave evidence of much promise.

Paul Edmund Davies's performance of Prokofiev's *Plute Sonata* in D major was an object lesson in the moulding of phrases. Both he and his accompanist Richard Balcombe were admirable at this and in their subtle gradations of tone, while the technical problems of the work seemed not to worry them in the slightest.

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Open

Child pornography: stop the poison now

There is no coldness, this side of the grave, quite like the coldness of the official mind. It is more unpleasant than the hard frost of honest enmity, which at least occasionally can thaw into something like regard for an opponent.

The coldness of the official mind comes from a passionate concern to defend policy, however it is arrived at, and also the chosen timescale of policy. It is zealous for paper logic and it will dismiss the human problems which disturb this logic with an unscrupulousness of which few politicians, on their own, are capable.

Tomorrow Mr Cyril Townsend's Protection of Children Bill comes before the House of Commons. Its purpose is to prevent the exploitation of children by their use in the production of films or photographic material of an obscene or pornographic character.

The Home Office, it seems, will not exactly oppose it, but the Home Office and its ministers have consistently poured cold water on the need for this Bill and its practicability. They are likely to do the same tomorrow.

They have done so at every stage in their discussions with Mr Townsend since he decided to bring in a private member's Bill. First they said virtually that child pornography did not exist in Britain as a serious problem, and could be dealt with under the existing law. Then they implied that the whole problem was being exaggerated.

Their last defence, and it is on this one that they now rest, was to say that the legal system is so complex and fundamental that it would be better to do nothing until the Williams committee which is looking into

obscenity generally has made its report.

They are not in the least deterred that the Williams committee will not be reporting for about another two years, and that it could be a further two years after that before a government could produce legislation. Nor is the Home Office in the least impressed, it seems, by the fact that there are already some children in Britain who have been injured by being trapped into this vicious trade, and other children who have been damaged by perverted adults who make use of such material as a self-stimulant.

Nor is there the slightest indication that the Home Office has raised its eyes from the legal niceties at home to inquire into any detail into the extent to which child pornography already flourishes in the mainland of Europe, or about the huge threat to the welfare of children that it has come to represent in America where, within this last week, a Bill has become law to protect children from it.

The Home Office does not even seem to have taken any serious steps towards consulting the special bodies which could have told the officials that their complacency is misplaced.

Yet the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children have told Mr Townsend in a letter that they have to deal with cases where their officers discover that children are being photographed for pornographic purposes, and that both the NSPCC and the police are hampered by the present state of the criminal law. The Salvation Army have also written to Mr Townsend commending the incalculable harm that is being done by

child pornography, and supporting a Bill to prevent it. The Chief Constable of Manchester has sent a letter to Mr Townsend in support of the Bill and laying specifically that many of the cases with which the police are confronted do not come within the ambit of the present law. What, I wonder, have the Home Office really done to consult those best able to advise them?

I fear that the Home Office and its ministers prefer to bog themselves down in legalistic excuses for inaction, and I suppose they are doing their best to see that the Bill gets as little support as possible.

Thus Mr Evan Luard, an Under-Secretary at the Foreign Office, has written to a constituent with the mysterious comment that "as a member of the Government, I am not able to vote for private members' Bills of the kind introduced by Mr Townsend".

Reading the chilly Home Office excuses, mostly above the signature of Mr Brynmor Jones, it is hard to believe that one is dealing with a department that could, if it wanted, have found out what is happening in America.

If they couldn't afford to find out direct, they could have asked Dr Judianne Densen-Gerber, a doctor, psychiatrist and lawyer who is at the head of the Odyssey Institute in America which deals with children damaged by drugs, involvement in pornography and prostitution.

Dr Densen-Gerber is a distinguished American who has given evidence to Congress. She is in London this week (until Sunday) in support of Mr Townsend's Bill and is available if the Home Office

wish to see her, which apparently they do not.

However, I have seen Dr Densen-Gerber and can pass on some of what she told me. She began her work against the exploitation of children in the making of pornography, not as a result of dealing with pornography as such, but because her work is with children damaged by drug addiction.

She made graphically clear to me the appalling interaction of drugs, child pornography and child prostitution in the United States. In America, child prostitutes (girls and boys) are on the streets in New York and in other large cities. They work in specific areas (Dr Densen-Gerber told me that, for instance, they are active in one Mayfair-type and one Soho-type area in New York) and in other places they molest potential customers.

She showed me material so horrible that it cannot be described. (And the fact that it cannot be described is, of course, part of the problem of making people understand how serious it is when it is established. Pornography is now a familiar word of diminishing impact.) As a psychiatrist, she rejected the often heard assertion that such material does not cause crime and only results in what is called masturbatory release.

"Men who are libidinally fixated on child pornography," she said, "are also libidinally fixated on child either in the community, or in their own family." In many cases, this leads to incest (a rising crime in the United States) and, cross-generational incest is one of the themes of some of the most degrading child pornography magazines she showed me.

Perhaps the most frightening

thing of all was a Danish produced magazine circulating in America in English, with drawings, which explains how to pick up a child, what games to play as a preliminary to sexual activity and what conduct to follow so as to leave the least evidence for the police.

The evidence that Dr Densen-Gerber gave to a House of Representatives committee revealed that child prostitution is big business in America. She told the committee that many of these children are now on computers which enable them to be moved from city to city.

You may say that that cannot happen here, and that it is probably true that the legal situation in this country are stronger than they were in America before the new law was passed.

Yet there are escape routes: it is beginning to come in and to be made here. As Dr Densen-Gerber said, it would be a tragedy if, just when America had decided to act to stop it, we decided not to, and ran the risk of transferring the trade to this country, for which the war could be paid by the fact that the so-called paedophile movement has its centre in Britain.

Certainly, at the moment, children between the ages of 14 and 16, which is in many respects the most vulnerable age (though child pornography in America uses children much younger) are unprotected to Britain, and Mr Townsend's Bill would put that right.

One of the quibbles raised by the Home Office concerns the definition of "indecent" in the clause of the Bill which makes it a crime to film or photograph children for indecent purposes. Yet the Post

Office and Customs have no difficulty with this definition, and nor I think would a jury when faced with it in practice. The Home Office has also told Mr Townsend that it thinks making possession of such child pornography an offence would be hard to justify. Yet the new American law, which deals with child pornography as involving illegal acts (comparable to illegal child labour) makes it an offence right down the line, from those who make, promote and distribute it, to those who retail it or possess it.

Child pornography has not yet afflicted Britain as it has America, but it is vital to act now to stop it at its beginnings. Nobody can doubt that this is what public opinion wants. It does not want to be tricked by the official syndrome, which starts by declaring that there is no problem, and then when the problem becomes agonizing, pronounces that it is too late and has to be accepted.

I hope that there will be a full House in the Commons tomorrow and that, if necessary, some MPs who have their engagements in their constituency will break them and so support Mr Townsend's Bill. Their constituents would not only forgive them. Overwhelmingly they would want them to do it.

Complacent officials have to be told that the country was in action immediately. The Home Office will no doubt hope that by not actually opposing the Bill it may be talked out or slin by with a negligible majority. An overwhelming House of Commons vote of support (I hope from all parties) to make Parliament's wish clear beyond ambiguity is an imperative tomorrow.

Learning to love thy neighbour

Birmingham's policy for dealing with housing problems is already running into trouble. Blocks of flats within estates have been set aside for "anti-social" families, but the outcry from other residents has been strong. A homeless family was moved into one of the blocks last week and the reaction was immediate. One woman due to leave hospital after having a baby refused to go home as she did not wish to live near the newly arrived family. She went instead to her mother. A neighbour still living in the "anti-social" block demanded to be moved immediately. A man already collecting signatures for a petition against moving such families into the area— he had reached 300— threatened to picket the block.

Yet in fact this family did not come into the "anti-social" bracket. They were simply homeless. The reaction to the move showed that they might be "a problem family" but they were not "anti-social". The policy will prove divisive and lead to the families being stigmatised.

The policy is intended to move difficult tenants into small groups of houses or flats where they can be rehabilitated to an acceptable standard of behaviour. It was announced without prior consultation with social services officials, although they are expected to provide support for the families.

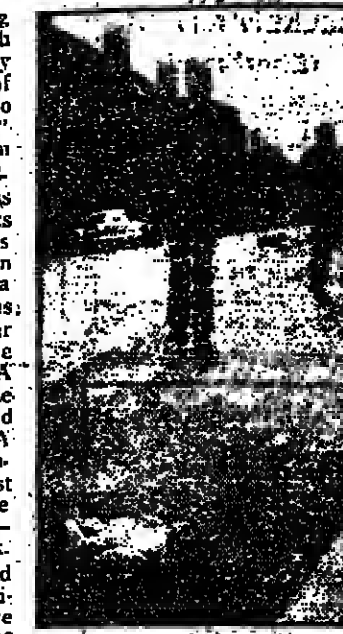
Birmingham's director of social services is not prepared to say anything publicly because he believes the issue is political. Charged by his own social workers with failing to say anything to them, he points out that he was not consulted on the policy himself. Now that he has discovered the full implications of the policy, he will be starting discussions with social workers. They have declared, through the National Union of Public Employees and the local branch of the British Association of Social Workers, that they will co-operate with the new policy until consultation has taken place.

The policy in effect makes public and formal the long-standing practice of many housing authorities of concentrating poorer tenants on older housing estates. A "tenancy conditions" enforcement sub-committee" was set up in November 1976 to deal with complaints by tenants about their neighbours and handled 53 cases in its first year. Only four of the 53 families accused of nuisance by their neighbours were allowed to remain where they were, and they were issued with a strong warning. Most of the families were moved, although action has not yet been completed.

That "dispersal" policy has not worked, according to Mr Arthur Walker, chairman of housing, who has introduced the new policy in spite of vociferous protests from all sides. "It has done nothing more than move a sore or a festering wound from one spot to another," Mr Walker said. "Under this policy you will no longer have six to 12 sorts of estates; there will be one sort, admittedly a bigger one, but at least you will not have street after street affected."

First, the new policy appeared to have overwhelming support from the people of Birmingham. An undisciplined number of readers of the local evening paper responded to a questionnaire and 97 per cent agreed that "problem families" should be moved into "special districts for intensive social care".

Then the seven sites chosen were disclosed and it was realized that the families would be moved from one residential area to another. At least 3,000 residents signed petitions against the families being moved into those areas. Conservative councillors forced an adjournment of the council while the policy was clarified and Mr Walker had to survive a vote of confidence before getting it through. He had to agree to drop two of the



original seven sites which are marked by red lines on a map of Birmingham. The families are being moved into these areas.

NUPE see the new policy as an attempt to divert attention from the real difficulty of poor housing in a city where building has been cut back and the urban renewal programme has been abandoned. BASW members oppose it as unjust, unworkable and likely to lead to tenants being encouraged to complain about their neighbours.

Mr Walker said: "It is an attempt to bring law and order to alleviate the misery of our tenants caused by a very small minority of tenants whose behaviour is appalling. It is not enough to say that these people will 'mix up their neighbours'."

Selection of the tenants to be moved will be made by a tenancy conditions enforcement sub-committee response to complaints from neighbours and after investigation of other options. The five remaining sites, as Mr Walker calls them, comprise housing units. Once there, families will be able to move again providing they continue housing officials that a prepared to conform to acceptable standards.

"The tenants aimed at are the completely anti-social people who will not or cannot control their actions, whether through nature or drink, who go round threatening or harassing their neighbours," Mr Walker said. "They will move to wind and woe, and if they are not moved, they will remain vandalized."

But the policy has already been delayed not only by protests but by the refusal of local people. Some were supposed to move to make way for the "anti-social" families, and some have refused. Others have torn up unsolicited transfer forms. But there is a minority who are pleased to have a transfer after many years of waiting. The date which the first families will move under the new policy has already been put back to months.

Mr Herbert Banner Adkin, chairman of social services, supports the new policy as "law and order" issue that primarily a housing matter. He believes the housing officials have made it a point to come up with isolated places to put the families which he declares he could have found. Unlike his colleague Mr Walker, he believes the social services will be involved only routinely, if at all.

The social workers, who are expected to provide the "intensive social care" that will rehabilitate the selected families believe that the policy will be defeated by the people of Birmingham. They say they are pointing out, by moving them will simply make life unpleasant for other families.

Pat Heald, Social Services Correspondent

What is going on in the mind of Dr Soares?

LISBON

A recent cartoon in the Portuguese Social Democrat newspaper *Expresso* depicted the socialist Prime Minister, Dr Mario Soares, with Professor Freitas do Amaral, the Christian Democrat (CDS) leader, peering from out of the top of his skull.

Professor do Amaral, whose party has joined the socialists in the new coalition government, was shown with a cheeky grin on his face and Dr Soares as if he were peering through his cheeks puffed out and sagging.

The cartoon caught the mood of the grave situation perfectly: on the one hand the CDS party, which is avowedly against the socialist-orientated constitution of 1976, and whose star is on the ascendant, and on the other the dilemma of the socialists in their alliance with the right in order to make the second constitutional government since the military coup of April 25, 1974 viable.

The Portuguese, perplexed and visibly weary after four years of political and economic upheaval, are asking themselves many questions—not the least, as the cartoon showed, what is going on in the mind of Dr Soares?

Will this government last until 1980, as the agreement intends? Will it be capable of tackling the serious economic problems which remain unsolved? How can this government be coherent?

Opinions are inevitably partisan. For the communists this government is "reactionary"; for the socialists, a complete betrayal of the principles of the "agrarian revolution".

The Social Democrats (PSD) find themselves in the very strange position of remaining the major opposition party— with 73 seats in the Assembly of the Republic—but with a programme which is not very much different from that of the CDS or the socialists for that matter. The CDS, hence the GRIN, is delighted and the socialists are caught in the middle.

What is happening in Portugal, and which way is bound to



Dr Soares and Professor do Amaral: a haggard face and a cheeky grin.

happened sooner or later is a realignment of political positions. The general consensus of opinion is that the socialists will be the losers of the present arrangements, with its disillusioned left-wing going over to the communists, although a breakaway movement from the party could hold it off.

The communists will increase their strength anyway if the expected austerity measures are brought in to bring the economy out of its decline. The PSD is likely to lose a lot of support—its small social democratic wing to the socialists, and many of its rank and file to the CDS which will become the Grand Conservative Party.

The fall of the last government, the result of losing a vote of confidence over what kind of talks were necessary with the IMF, was, it should be remembered, the country's first "normal" crisis in 17

months of parliamentary democracy. There were other crises before that in the wake of the revolution: an attempted right-wing counter coup in March 1975, and one from the far left in November, 1975.

When the Armed Forces Movement (MFA), overthrew almost 50 years of fascism, their programme aimed at "decolonization, democratization and development", the three d's. The first one was easily solved, creating at the same time the problem of the "retornados" (refugees returning from the former Portuguese African colonies, but the last two d's have still a long way to go, particularly in development.

"Democracy cannot be built on socialism alone," Senhor da Costa, vice president of the CDS, told me. We have, unlike other parties, never aimed to be socialist. Now people ask us, how can we, who voted against

the constitution, form a government with the fathers of that same constitution. Yes, we voted against it (the only party to do so), but as a democratic party must obey, and respect Bills which parliament passes. However, we cannot follow the spirit of the constitution.

Senhor da Costa quoted at the new slogan of the CDS youth section: "We want a society with less Marxism, less socialism and more democracy."

The CDS now has a foothold in the government. The three agreements, political, an economic one for 1978 and another for 1979-84, make no mention whatever of socialism or modernization and other socialistic words which abound in the constitution.

The first and last agreement were, in fact almost entirely drafted by the CDS. There is, for example, a reference to

"the recognition of the fundamental role which private initiative has to play". The constitution speaks of the transition to socialism. The tide is beginning to turn.

Dr Soares does not get on with the PSD, there is political and personal rivalry, but more than this it appears that he would like to create a strong two-party system in Portugal by eliminating the Social Democrats as a separate party.

"Our opposition will not be a right-wing one," Senhor Francisco Pinto Balsemão, the *Expresso* editor, told me. "On the other hand the PSD is not going to vote with the communists." For Senhor Balsemão the present situation is like a house with the socialists building one wall: the CDS another, but what about the roof? There is no national project here and there is a tendency to identify democracy with disorder.

In Spain reform is coming

from within the system for General Franco died naturally. Here it is the opposite for the dictatorship was overthrown. The two halves of Portugal, the basically conservative north and the communist south, divided by the river Tagus at Lisbon, are more entrenched now than ever. Sadly there is no sense of national identity, not in the sense of autonomy, a problem for Spain, not Portugal.

Dr Soares must now make his pact. His problem is the communists, who control the unions. The party, as veteran socialist Dr Raul Rego, editor of a *Luz*, pointed out to me, is trying to prove that orthodox communism, not Eurocommunism, can work in western Europe.

"We want to maintain the situation, the conquests of April 25" (agrarian reform, nationalization) said Senhor Américo Santos, of the party's central committee, while others want to change it. "It was a serious error of the socialists to make an agreement with a party which is against the democratic regime."

The new government has a comfortable majority in the parliament. It is unlikely to be brought down there but by social chaos, words used a lot these days in Lisbon.

Meanwhile, the MFA, the "guardians of the revolution", to their watchdog body, the Council of the Revolution, show signs of uneasiness: "We are worried by the move to the right," a leftist council member admitted to me. The armed forces in Portugal remain the most politicized in western Europe.

The president, General Eanes, who resisted the temptation to form a government himself with the fall of the last one, has gallantly kept to his role as arbitrator and not a politician. His moderate line is the dominant one, although not among the younger officers. The general is not a man given to smiling and these days he looks even sterner, in his Belem palace.

William Chislett

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Boss heralding itself with a tongued lion

South Africa's Bureau for State Security, or Boss as it is acronymically known has briefly emerged from the shadows to a most unspeakable way. It has applied to the Bureau of Heraldry, the South African equivalent of the College of Arms, for official recognition of its own coat of arms and motto.

According to a notice in the South African Government Gazette, the motto which Boss has chosen for itself is "Scientia morit". (Knowledge fortifies), which would seem a suitable motto for an intelligence organisation.

Those familiar with Boss's ways in South Africa feel, however, that the Royal Artillery motto "Tibetum" might have been more appropriate.

The coat of arms which Boss has chosen for itself consists of a lion with its tongue out, a plume of three peacock feathers marked with little eyes and the quills topped by two wolf heads.

It is unclear exactly what Boss intends to do with its coat of arms. Perhaps its agents in the field will wear it as a blazer badge or on a club tie.

The thought occurs: if the CIA, KGB and MI6 were to follow suit and identify their

self says he can get me into cars—reading...



operatives in a similar manner, then it might be possible to do away with the whole business of counter-espionage.

A Financial Times advertisement offers a house for sale, with bulletproof windows, five minutes from the House of Commons. Sounds like a convenient bolt-hole after a stormy debate.

THE TIMES DIARY/ PHS

Very long run for City Lights?

You will know, if you read *The Times*, that a campaign is afoot to erect a statue of Charlie Chaplin in London.

My own opinion is that his films are his best memorial. I expect this is a minority view but the man who is fueling the campaign is adamant that his is not already he has received more than 200 letters of support.

I am talking of Illyd Harrington, deputy leader of the Opposition in the Greater London Council, whose file of letters is now on its way to the GLC's arts committee who consider the statue plan in two weeks' time.

The statue would cost ratepayers between £10,000 and £12,000, he thinks. An under-estimate, say the committee's chairman, Bernard Brook-Partridge and the leader of the GLC, Hurace Cutler.

Mr Brook-Partridge tells me that, as a possible alternative, he will float the idea of a public fund, to which the GLC might contribute.

Mr Cutler has another idea, which would not cost the ratepayer a penny. Why not illuminate a sign in Piccadilly Circus, with Charlie as its theme?

A nostalgic thought: Chaplin in *City Lights* once again, and, presumably, for a never-ending run.

And while on the subject of brightening up London, I see that tomorrow is the 80th birthday of Major Norman Kark, the man who, when he was in advertising in the 1930s, first thought up the idea of spotlighting Nelson in Trafalgar Square—and did it.

Another way of getting scorched

The 65p cup of tea in Greece and the £1.70 a day deckchair in Italy are about to wrinkle the horizon of day-trippers planning their foreign holidays.

The Consumer's Association publication *Holiday Which?*, out today, has such unflattering estimates of prices abroad this summer that I am tempted to suggest that everyone stay at home to get away from them all.

One of the most alarming examples of inflation is Portugal where food prices have increased by 32 per cent since last year. If you can afford the petrol (£2.10 a gallon) I suggest you motor over the border very quickly to Spain, the only holiday place which *Holiday Which?* feels may still be cheaper than home.

Epiphany in Sinaka which offers "double room, bath and sherry".

"Epiphany of Strasbourg" assures me that a restaurant not far from the Alsacian capital has nose d'oise on the menu, while, only a little further afield, a most respectable establishment suggests that customers should start their meals with rude-fair.

I have no reason to doubt the veracity of Colin Long, a London lawyer, who insists that, in a restaurant in Damman, Saudi Arabia, you can order Bung Arian Goulash.

Much more attractive, Mr Penna thinks, is

No short list at the station

The vital difference between London policemen and police women as everyone now knows from the advertisement, is 10 inches.

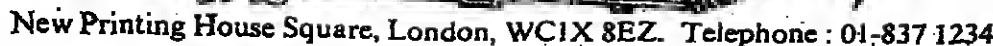
A lesser known statistic, that four inches in height roughly represents the difference between the policemen of today and 1935—as far as according to information racing *The Job*, the Metropolitan Police newspaper.

A list of officers who form the A or Whitehall division special squads shows that a baby of the 22-man group of October 24, 1935 was 6ft 11in. The tallest was PC 273, Hunt who stood 6ft 8 1/2 in in a stockinged feet and without helmet. None of the 12 men on an additional reserve list was shorter than 6ft 3in.

The list was sent to *The Job* by PC Tom Lisamore of Cannon Row who wonders what happened to stunt the growth of today's policemen who are generally thought to be taller than they used to be.

He suggests the magic police canteen porridge may have sent policemen shooting up in 1935. A tall story.

Not only are the days lengthening, but according to British Rail, 1978 days are 100 days longer than 1977. February has a 29th, a 30th and a 31st.



decision by the miners' leaders to accept pay rises in line with the Government's guidelines has come as a relief to all concerned. The miners' leaders must have known after the very substantial activity agreements reached last Christmas, there would have been greater public hostility to any little trade union support if they had decided on a strike to get more. Thus the normal claim for an increase of 90 per cent on basic pay is seen to have been more the nature of a tactical move to deprive the extreme elements of a union of their room for manoeuvre, rather than a seriously pressed claim.

would clearly have been damaging to the national credit, if there had been a coal strike with attendant disruption of the coal trade. Consequently, no one could reasonably expect the Government to withdraw its support of the miners' decision in the face of the obvious and rather vindication of its policy in incomes policy. It is also true that, in the short run, the policy of supporting the miners is attracting a measure of public support. The public dislike of inflation and its consequences is still real. A general objection to powers of holding the system together with large wage claims, and with strike action, is that there is the impression that there is a conspiracy between union leaders and some managers to give wage increases in business, or industry can properly afford, with the public suffering the most price increase. For all reasons the Government that it can count on a measure of support, even if it is like the Confederation of British Industry, for its policy.

The illuminating correspondence, published on Tuesday, between the John Lewis Partnership and government departments gives documentary proof of why such a system could not work.

That correspondence in effect demonstrates that the Government's incomes policy is what officials of the Department of Employment say it is. It is their decision, subject it seems to no administrative appeal, whether a company has broken that policy. The Government can then decide in an arbitrary way whether and to what extent an offending company shall be punished. In some cases a company seems not to have been found guilty and placed on the blacklist without their knowledge. Quite apart from the question of whether or not this offends against basic concepts of natural justice, it must be absurd to operate a policy whose purpose is deterrence on the basis of blacklists which until now have been kept secret.

Faced with the rapidly growing problems and legal issues that were arising from the previous way in which sanctions were being applied, the Government clearly needed a rapid change of tactics. The new approach, at least from a legal and practical

problem caused by the
ing penetration of the
car market by Japanese
s has entered a new and
more serious phase. In
the major Japanese manu-
surers seem to have refused
rhetorical assurances about
policy in the British
year. Although their
at was bedged round with
ces that they do not
to cause great problems
British industry during
a clear message delivered
visiting delegation of the
itish Society of Motor
curers and Traders is
at the time being the
voluntary restraint by
car makers is at an end.
e same time, the SMMT
l figures in London which
ve doubt on the sincerity
ich past undertakings by
e manufacturers have
served. The figures for
stratified in January show-
ing the first month of
ear, registrations of
e cars were more than
s high as they were in
1977. The figures over-
e Japanese increase of
share, but in so doing
int 'irresistibly' to the
on that the breach of the
not to increase Japan's
of the British market
1977 was even greater
peared from the initial
figures. These suggested
apanese manufacturers
3 per cent of the British
compared with the 9.4
implied by their promise
ceed the 1976 level.

It seems clear that the
ion of some Japanese
postponed from Decem-
anuary, thus artificially
ing the figure for 1977.
e manufacturers have

two main defences against the
criticism provoked by the clear
evidence that they sold far more
in 1977 than they led the British
industry to expect. Their first
line of argument is that they at
no time ever made any promise
about their behaviour during the
year, but instead merely indi-
cated that they saw no reason
to expect any increase in their
market share. This is not good
enough and ought to be rejected.
There was a clear understanding
and that understanding was not
met.

The second argument advanced
by Japanese manufacturers is
more soundly based. This is that
their increase in sales in Britain
during 1977 was part of a much
broader increase in imports
which was caused by British Ley-
land's failure to produce enough
cars. No one can deny that there
is an uncomfortable element of
truth in this argument. Neither
the British nor the Japanese
Japanese manufacturers (or the
British government) have a duty
to protect British
Leyland and its employees from
their own folly.

However, the failure of Japa-
nese industry leaders to make
an offer of restraint during 1978
raises a quite different question.
The British car industry, and
British Leyland in particular,
needs not merely to hold on to
its present share of the British
market but to recover some of
the ground which it has lost if
it is to have a viable future.
Even so, most of its optimistic
assumations about the new struc-
ture of British Leyland, that will
be a very difficult task.

It risks being made impossible
by the threat of the major Japa-
nese manufacturers to expand
their sales to Britain at least in
line with the total increase in
the British market this year and

ag attack by Mr Colin T. the "South African" further steps in policy of dividing the into a white man's and "eight" rural shed black states shows November elections have ip a real if small oppo- nary, and a direct the juggernant. Mr Alder, the Minister of dministration, will get to amend the status of rther in the direction -beiter, but not without -aking. The Progressive Party has only 17 seats ionalists 134. But black n to the white, and the within and outside lands, and it is a good the PFR recognizes that role is to articulate ver possible.

objective of the sts, since Dr Verwoerd's always-been-as plain of *Mein Kampf*. All e to have the status of of their bantustans, they have ever been are tribally identifiable n white South Africa. e opportunities are, which blacks are there but legally invisible will assist the police to keep the helots powerless. But even the bantustans are resisting these cruel-absurdities. Recently under the separate development programme a shantytown of shoshas was hollidized in the Cape and its dwellers were told that as

From the Chairman of the National Coal Board

Sir, I consider that Mr Rees-Mogg, in his article of February 6, oversimplifies the comparison of efficiency between state and private enterprise. There are many examples of highly efficient management in the nationalized industries; and there are many examples of the development of new and exciting technologies which are stimulating interest throughout the world and leading to valuable overseas earnings.

• While there may be some merit in further examining Mr. Rees-Mogg's financing proposals on the equity financing of state industries (and I am always glad that they should have got the publicity in the press in which they raise money that they presently possess), no amount of financial rejiggering will alter some of the basic problems with which the state industries have to deal. There is only one way of solving these problems: by management clearly defining them, identifying the possible options, fully and frankly discussing them with the employees involved, selecting the most practicable solution, and pursuing it with determination.

This process applies whatever the ownership of the business. It is the responsibility of management. I contend we have it just as much in the nationalized industries as in the private sector.

Yours faithfully,
DEREK EZRA, Chairman,
National Board,
Robert House,
Grosvenor Place, SW1.
February 8.

From Mr David Wilks
Sir, Your correspondents from the Rummymede Trust (February 8) do the Conservative Party grave injustice by stating: "In the past six months there have been protests from members of other political parties against the tactics of the National Front. The silence among the leadership of the Conservative Party has been deafening."
Perhaps I may be permitted to out-judge a few of the facts. At the Party Conference last October, the constituency associations of the Conservative Party balloted for a resolution on the National Front. The motion was passed overwhelmingly and it called on all constituency associations to affiliate to their local community relations councils.

In November Mr Whiteleaf launched the Federation of Conservative Students' campaign against racism. This campaign had the full support of Mrs Thatcher and the British Council and many constituency associations throughout Britain are now distributing leaflets in our cities to combat the growth of racism in this country and to promote racial harmony.

More recently the Conservative Party has joined the joint committee against racism. Here again we shall be working with ethnic organisations, trade and other major political parties and other groups to provide an educational campaign against racism and to foster harmonious race relations.

The record of the Conservative Party is a proud one. Admittedly I believe we should also be providing more positive solutions to the problems in our inner cities. Perhaps at this time the record of our public authorities has been unimpressive. Yet nonetheless the Conservative Party's stand against racism is clear and unambiguous. For Mr Teesdale and Mr Callaghan to suggest otherwise is utterly discreditable and for the Runnymede Trust to afford me describe our action as 'effortless' must mean they are deaf.

David Sainsbury
DAVID WILKS
National Federation of Conservative Students
2 Smith Square, SW1R

in his article on "Exporting
insults to Iran" Lord
halfout seeks to explain why these
insults have been given. But I
think he has omitted what may be
the most important of all the
reasons, and this is the comparative
immunity of rich Persians in their
own country from the crippling
taxation which afflicts the rich over-
seas. This immunity is especially
evident to us when the rich Per-
sians come here.

My own personal concern in this
lies from the purchase of our old

family home of Toddington in the North Cotswolds by a Persian. What might have happened to the fabric of the tapestry is not known. It is said by Sir Lord Sudeley who afterwards became Chairman of the Commission for the Rebuilding of the Houses of Parliament, has been a great worry to the Victorian Society and myself; and now we are so concerned there is money from Persia to take care of it.

At the same time, it is a national disgrace that the preservation of places like Toddington should be left to depend on money from abroad.

Toddington is not an isolated instance. When, by the use of the capital transfer tax, the government liquidates our own countrymen as the hereditary owners of great houses and estates, the question is raised of into whose hands these houses and estates may fall. One answer, I suppose, is rich foreigners like the Persians who are welcomed here for purposes of exchange.

We should put our own house in order before throwing stones at people who are building theirs.

DELEY,
Melcombe Court,
Spartan Square, NW1.

a letter on Saturday, Mr Amos Ford suggested that a non-aggression pact between Belize and Guatemala should ultimately be signed and incorporated in the articles of the United Nations, not the United Kingdom, as was incorrectly primed.

From Sir Arnold Weinstein
Sir, The debate and vote in the House of Commons on Tuesday (February 7) confirms the Government's intention to put the Electricity Bill through to the House. I am sure that, from the suppliers who the Secretary of State alleges have strayed outside the boundaries of the Bill, and even whose subcontractors are alleged to have done so, the hortative "procedures" published today, for the Government and vendors, no doubt have to be revised in due course. But the principle is more or less clear.

That principle having been established, it can presumably expect the same contract conditions to be applied where a government agency is a seller instead of a buyer. For example, the CEGB's Electricity Board, or the Post Office make statements outside the guidelines, no doubt we shall be upheld in our right to sue or pursue our claims for electricity, gas and telephone services.

Others will doubtless take up the more basic issue of the apparent outrage to the principles of constitutional government in a free society which the administration's present behaviour implies.

Yours faithfully,

ARNOLD WEINSTOCK,
The General Electric Company
Limited,
1 Stanhope Gate, W1.
February 8.

From Mr William Shepherd
Sir, I find the present assault on the Government's wages policy thoroughly depressing. The Sun Alliance is clearly confronting the Government as an act of defiance—no longer being prepared to pay more money and load the cross of the policyholder than to take a stand on a rational wages policy. The press, including unhappily *The Times*, is rowing in on the obvious which is that a voluntary pay policy cannot provide the rational and ethical legal positions from which the Government can act to further its aims. The Opposition has no policy

From Mr John Biggs-Davison, MP for Bipping Forest (Conservative):

Sir, The Conservative Opposition has been falsely charged on both sides of the Irish Sea with breaking bipartisanship on Ulster. At Question Time on February 2 the First Minister, Mr Gerald Fitts, alleged that the Opposition spokesman's speech at Surbiton on the previous day had "led to the breakdown in the bipartisan approach" and, the Prime Minister, replying, expressed the hope that "a rational approach can be sustained and maintained as it has during the past seven years."

It is reasonably basic his allegation on these words: of Mr Airey Neave: "Thanks to the Irish Government - a power sharing administration in Northern Ireland - it is no longer practical politics. All our efforts must now be concentrated on improving the structure of the province which has failed to win the full hearted support of the community."

The Secretary of State proposes a Northern Ireland Regional Authority containing, as he said at Doocaster on February 3, "safeguards for both minority and majority interests". But in the same speech Mr Mason urged "politicians and commentators" not "to get hung up on apparently simple expressions, such as 'power abar-

From the Bishop of Southwark

Sir, From a temporary sick bed, possibly occasioned by the "red" ink which politically becomes me, I have read the correspondence on the so-called "Christian Unity" with a little interest and much boredom.

I attended my first conference on the reunion of the Churches in 1937—more than forty years ago. I doubt whether anything of importance was said on that occasion which has not been repeated ad nauseam in your columns in recent days. As for the things of non-importance, they win

to the intervening years—getting the sacraments—have administered the Sacrament to hundreds, possibly thousands, of Roman Catholics or Free Churchmen. It was also been my privilege and joy to receive the Sacrament at their invitation from them.

Q. Now, a question: how I can show myself to become thus, involved when there is a lack of doctrinal agreement. Here is my reply:

a) There is no doctrinal agreement between the Church of England on many points, and when I ordain a man to the ministry of the Cathedral he is convinced that I am not making him a sacerdotal priest qualified to offer the sacrifice of the Mass, whereas the man kneeling before me is convinced that he understands, is convinced that the opposite is the case. To him the "Mass"

and he would reject the word—as a memorial meal and there is no presence of Christ in the bread and wine but only in the heart of the believer. The same opposite opinions would be true of the infallibility of scripture, the need to go to confession, prayers for the dead, the invocation of Saints, Mariolatry, and much more. Even so we co-exist with few exceptions, as a family intent on doing the Lord's work as we understand it.

(b) If Roman Catholics think that

Britain's 'lie factory'
from Dr Charles Cruickshank
 Sir, May I be allowed to correct misapprehensions in Mr. Kenneth Smith's issue of 15 January 1976 about Britain's 'lie factory'?

The files of the Political Warfare Executive (Class FO 938) are on under a security ban but have been available for study in the Public Record Office for some years. There are well over 600 of them, and, as I was the principal researcher for my recent book *The Fourth Arm: psychological warfare, 1938-1945*.

From the Director-General of the
Meteorological Office

Sir, The climate of Britain is usually described as temperate but, as the recent flooding along the East Coast of Scotland remind us, we are not immune from the fury of the elements.

On such occasions there may be criticism, either direct or implied, of the Meteorological Office. It is often ill-informed; rarely do the forecasters receive credit for their successes. Even your informative feature on the Scottish blizzards of 1962-63, February-March, left a strong impression that the storm struck without warning and was not identified until revealed by satellite pictures on the morning of January 28. It was the very deep depression and its associated weather which were very well handled in the forecasts issued by the Meteorological Office.

Numerous forecasts and special Flash messages issued from the evening of January 27 onwards predicted a substantial snow with heavy drifting in strong winds. On the evening of January 27 the BBC Scottish Television, Regional News included a special warning from Glasgow Weather Centre advising climbers, skiers and travellers of the possibility of snow and drifts on the following day. The Defence authorities, too, were warned in the early hours of January 28 to expect calls for military help to assist the civilian community and to have a contingency plan for the rapid deployment of the Royal Air Force's ability to call in helicopters for rescue work in Scotland.

The Meteorological Office has no direct means of communication of its own for disseminating warnings to the general public and must rely on the media, the police and the local authorities. The public is warned of hazardous weather through the routine weather bulletins broadcast several times each day on national and regional radio and television channels and on many local radio stations. In addition, radio and television programmes are interrupted to give urgent warnings (Flash messages) of weather that may cause severe damage or endanger lives.

From Mr Boris Korolyov
Sir, I have read in your newspaper

I am more surprised about something else I noticed. On January 25 the Soviet Union's permanent discussion of the question of human rights for some reason the speakers used one example as an example—the name of Shchiransky. And this in a country where examples are not far to

Why did none of the parliamentarians mention Ulster, which was (and has been) turned into a preserve for trampling human rights underfoot?

Or, if British parliamentarians need an example from distant countries, they make care to take Bangladesh, where 20,000 people have been waiting for two years for permission to enter the UK because of a wish to be reunited with their families in Britain. Maybe, it is their possible helpers who should get a Nobel Peace Prize? Indeed, on balance, London appears to be a far more rewarding place for active implementation of the Helsinki

As we say: the street will be clean if each honestly sweeps the place in front of his own house. Yours faithfully,
B. KOROLYOV,
Flat 14,
Kublyovskoye Shaussee,
Moscow,
USSR.
January 27.

From the Chairmen of Surrey
County Cricket Club

ur, there is little more encouraging as a grey February morning
me to hear your Cricket Corres-
pondent calling for an end to
cricket's civil war which, like all
struggles of that nature, has bred
its own brand of bitterness amongst
those directly and indirectly in-
volved with the game.

The Surrey Club's loyalty is, and always has been, to our own Test & County Cricket Board, but we have never changed our view that there should be a genuine discussion around a table between the International Cricket Conference and the local system. All we have had so far is confrontation, not discussion. We believe that a round-table discussion, involving both sides, to analyze the good and the bad elements of both systems and could even lead to a unification of the two—for the benefit of the game, the players and the watching public all over the world. If this is what your correspondence is endorsing, we have your complete support. Time is of the essence, and it is to be hoped that the renewed initiatives in Australia reach ICC as soon as possible.

Yours faithfully,
ADAM SUBBA RAO.
Chairman, Surrey County Cricket Club

Editorial
Newspaper, SE11
Bournemouth, Dorset,
January, 7.

THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

A union view of the Edwardes' plan for Leyland, page 21

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arp decline in lustry's ility to compete erseas

Westlake Industry suffered a serious decline in its ability to compete in world markets in the final months of last year.

Representatives of the industry, after a steady decline in the earlier months of last year, indicated that the domestic market for the industry was in a "relative normal" state.

This is almost exactly equivalent to the rise in the pound's exchange rate, and suggests that the domestic market is being kept broadly in line with what was happening elsewhere in the world.

However, in spite of latest price movements in cost competitiveness, the IMF index still shows the present situation in the best light.

Whereas the other indices show that during 1977 Britain lost all the competitive edge gained during 1976 when the pound was falling, the IMF index suggests that some of the competitive gains achieved there have still not been totally eroded.

The Government is taking some comfort from this fact. It is being argued by economists that the pound is still some way from being as bad as it was two years ago.

Yet many economists will make newly published figures as a confirmation that the policy of letting the pound rise was mistaken because of the damage that it does to exports, output and jobs.

However, as holding the exchange rate down threatened another plank of the Government's economic policy, namely keeping a tight rein on the money supply, the Chancellor has argued that Britain will have to maintain competitiveness through a moderation in wage settlements.

To this end, the rise in the exchange rate has helped by keeping prices lower than they would otherwise have been.

MEASURES OF COMPETITIVENESS OF UK MANUFACTURED GOODS, (1970-100)

Relative export prices (1)	Import price competitiveness (2)	Relative unit value of exports (3)	Relative unit value of imports (4)	Relative profitability of exports (5)
100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
102.2	104.2	103.9	103.1	104.8
102.8	104.8	105.5	100.8	105.6
94.1	96.5	90.8	91.8	101.8
93.1	96.8	90.2	97.9	101.2
96.5	98.2	92.5	98.2	101.1
96.2	100.6	91.2	98.0	101.1
94.4	95.1	89.6	91.9	97.8
95.0	93.7	90.4	90.1	96.2
90.4	99.9	88.0	92.4	95.1
96.4	98.4	92.4	98.4	97.4
97.7	98.3	94.0	95.7	97.4
98.2	101.1	96.1	94.7	97.8
104.1	102.8	99.1	98.5	97.5

is the unit value of UK exports of manufactures divided by a weighted average of the unit values of imports of manufactures, both in a common currency.

is the index of UK wholesale output prices of manufactures other than divided by a weighted average of the indices of competitors' wholesale prices, both expressed in a common currency.

is UK nominal labour cost per unit of output divided by a weighted average of competitors' nominal labour costs, both series being expressed in a common currency and adjusted for variations in productivity about its trends.

is the index of UK wholesale output prices of manufactures other than divided by the unit value of UK exports of manufactures, both figures expressed in common currency.

ch accuse UK state shipyards

Sale of the ships will be financed out of Britain's £144m annual aid programme to India, which means that the Indians will get them for practically nothing. The deal will also help to preserve British shipbuilding jobs.

Dutch complaints come mainly from two Rotterdam shipbuilding groups, Rotterdam Scheepbouw Vereniging and Van der Giessen-De Noord, which has itself been trying for months to secure the Indian deal, but on normal commercial terms.

The Dutch have also been alarmed by reports that Britain is considering giving aid worth up to £25m to Vietnam mainly for the purpose of enabling Austin & Pickersgill of Sunderland to sell between two and

gheny bid speculation ts Wilkinson Match

However, it is thought that a shareholder has asked for a meeting of the full Takeover Panel to decide whether Allegheny's action in buying a 29.9 per cent stake from Swedish Match and then agreeing to sell a subsidiary to gain voting control is within the letter and spirit of the Code on Takeovers and Mergers.

Speculation is that Allegheny may make a full bid to quieten opposition or that it will sell its existing holding to a third party which intends to make an offer itself.

Mr Christopher Levintow, managing director of Wilkinson Match, said he would put all such suggestions in the category of rumours.

Unfortunately this accusation with Allegheny has led to a fair amount of interest. A spokesman for Allegheny in Pittsburgh said: "We are not aware that the deal is in trouble in any way. No one so far as I know has made any offer for the company."

Uncertain future for restraint on dividends

Prospects for an end to dividend restraint when legislation runs out this summer remain in the balance following a parliamentary statement yesterday by Mr Healey, Chancellor of the Exchequer.

In answer to a private question on the future of controls from Mr Robert Cant, Labour MP for Stoke-on-Trent Central, Mr Healey said: "It is too early yet to consider whether any legislation on dividends might be needed as part of the counter-inflation policy when the present one comes to an end."

But Mr Healey did clear up doubts about the existing exemption rules. He said: "If, however, there were to be new legislation, I would propose to continue the existing provisions relating to the raising of new capital and to defence against takeover bids, as well as the other provisions whereby companies may pay dividends above the statutory limit."

This resolves what was seen to be an extremely awkward position for several groups involved in takeover battles or currently planning rights issues. As current legislation runs out on July 31, the Treasury has hitherto been unable to give official approval to any increase payable after that date.

As a result, there was no guarantee that proposed increases would not be blocked by any new set of controls. Given the present political balance, there are strong doubts about the Government's ability even to continue existing controls, as these would require a new Act of Parliament.

But in the meantime Mr Healey's remarks on exemption provisions will be seen by private industry as a welcome indication that the Government is at least aware of the difficulties its present rules can create.

Stock Exchange, page 18
Financial Editor, page 21

Opec countries become net fund borrowers

Basle, Feb. 8.—For the first time since the 1973 oil price rise, members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) have become net borrowers of new funds from the international banking system, it is shown by data compiled by the Bank for International Settlements (BIS).

In the third quarter of 1977, the Opec group of countries borrowed \$2,200m (about £1,146m) in new funds, and deposited only \$400m.

Moreover, the BIS said, the Opec countries also restructured their balances with banks, moving some funds out of dollars into other currencies. They reduced their deposits—probably all in dollars—with branches of American banks in the Caribbean centres and the Far East by \$900m.

They also drew down their deposits with banks in the European Group of Ten countries by \$200m, and at the same time built up their non-dollar deposits in these countries by \$1,400m.—AP—Dow Jones.

Prices panel warning of increase in applications

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

The faster trend in the inflation rate, as reflected in the Price Commission's early warning index, continued in January when the index showed a 6.6 per cent annual rate, the same as in the previous month.

But the rate could go up in the coming months as the effect comes through of an increased number of companies putting through what, in some cases, may be substantial price rises.

Mr Charles Williams, chairman of the commission, gave warning last night: "I would expect the index to move around or rather above the present figure for a month or two."

He said that what happened after that depended above all on the progress of wage settlements. There was no escaping the fact that settlements on the side of the government guidelines would lead to companies not meeting price increases to recover the extra costs.

The index—usually a reliable advance indicator of what will happen to prices in the shops in two to three months' time—had been falling for months until it bottomed out in November last year at 5.8 per cent.

One reason why the index could move up in the next couple of months is that the effects have now largely worked

Inquiry into Fourth City

Fourth City & Commercial Investment Trust, whose quotation was suspended last July, is to be investigated by Department of Trade inspectors.

Mr Dell, Secretary for Trade, has appointed Mr John Christopher Calhoun, QC, and Mr Brian Murdoch, QC, to carry out the investigation into Fourth City, and also into Cambrian and Ekeles, under Section 164 of the Companies Act, 1948.

British Gas heads for £100m profit

By Roger Veilvoe

British Gas is heading for a record profit of around £100m in the current financial year, that ends in March.

As a result, consumers who were confronted with an unexpected 10 per cent rise in gas prices in the early months of last April, are unlikely to face any immediate rise in gas costs once the corporation's 12 month freeze on tariff increases ends in the spring.

Last year the gas corporation made £31.5m, itself a record, even after allowing for £102m of additional depreciation. In the current year the corporation has found conditions excellent with Frigg gas entering its distribution network for the first time and commanding prices in the industrial fuel market that are competitive with fuel oils.

Also, the cold weather has improved gas sales, and provided there is not an unseasonably warm March, it should not be deflected from reaching the £100m figure.

The only factor that could affect the corporation's performance in the last six weeks of the financial year is the outcome of talks with the oil companies that control the gas fields in the northern part of the North Sea, providing the bulk of the country's supplies.

The companies want higher prices to justify installing new facilities on established fields to boost the amount of gas recovered from the submarine reservoirs.

Sir Denis Rooke, chairman of the British Gas Corporation, told the House of Commons Select Committee on Nationalized Industries yesterday that the corporation should achieve a 4 per cent return on its turnover this year.

For a time it looked as if this would be achieved, but a complete breakdown of the national negotiations, and that the industry would be forced once again to return to single wage bargaining at company and plant level. This has happened twice before during phases one and two of the government incomes policy.

Nevertheless, both the unions and employers want to maintain the national wage bargaining structure. The unions' executive is especially keen to see the industry return to a level of basic rates enshrined in an industry-wide agreement.

The national negotiations may have been salvaged by a decision of the AUEW's policy

Engineering unions likely to back compromise pay proposals today

By R. W. Shakespeare

Leaders of the country's 19 engineering unions who will meet in York today seem likely to support "compromise" demands on pay and conditions for a shorter working week and longer holidays, they have offered some significant concessions in other areas, including the basis of which overtime and shift work premiums are calculated.

With only 63 a week separating the two sides on the skilled rate—provided that the Confederation of British Industry (CBI) and the AUEW agree today—it seems that a new national deal can be concluded within the next few weeks.

It would be due for implementation from March 1, but individual companies would have to put it into effect as the anniversary dates of their own current pay agreements were reached in order to avoid breaches of the 12-month rule.

making national committee to drop its insistence on the £70 minimum skilled rate and to lower the target to £60 a week.

Although the employers have refused to budge on the claims for a shorter working week and longer holidays, they have offered some significant concessions in other areas, including the basis of which overtime and shift work premiums are calculated.

With only 63 a week separating the two sides on the skilled rate—provided that the Confederation of British Industry (CBI) and the AUEW agree today—it seems that a new national deal can be concluded within the next few weeks.

It would be due for implementation from March 1, but individual companies would have to put it into effect as the anniversary dates of their own current pay agreements were reached in order to avoid breaches of the 12-month rule.

Food groups attack 12-month price pauses

By Patricia Tisdall

Resistance is growing among food and other consumer goods producers to government suggestions that there should be an interval of no less than 12 months between price increases. The Food Manufacturers Federation, in particular, has pointed out during informal discussions with the Department of Prices and Consumer Protection that it would be difficult for its members to give any fixed commitment on intervals between price increases.

The food producers say they are experiencing unusually acute competitive pressures as a result of the price war at present being fought between Tesco, Sainsbury and the other big grocery retailers. Also, they are at the mercy of wide fluctuations in the fresh food and commodity markets, which are outside their control.

There is a wide divergence of opinion among food producing companies about the commercial wisdom of applying fewer, but larger price rises. There is a belief that steeper price increases, even though these were at less frequent intervals, could create stronger resistance from consumers and offer opportunities for competitors.

The food producers say that competitive pressures alone are sufficient to keep price increases to a minimum. They regard the Price Commission's role as unnecessary.

How the markets moved

The Times index: 196.76 +1.14
The FT index: 468.4 +4.7

Rises		Falls	
Ass Book	9p to 17p	Anglo Am Coal	10p to 44p
Beecham	10p to 53p	Decca	15p to 41p
Fisons	10p to 37p	Dormontin	21p to 24p
Foster Bros	8p to 38p	Durban Road	19p to 33p
Gen Mtr BTR	8p to 14p	E Drifonten	34p to 89p
ICL	8p to 25p	E Rand Prop	19p to 34p
Linford Hldgs	5p to 14p	Harmony	25p to 32p
		Imp Cold Store	
		10p to 53p	
		10p to 45p	
		10p to 14p	
		22p to 45p	
		13p to 20p	
		22p to 60p	
		Gold 50.15 to 51.74	
		SDR 5 was 1.21190 on Wednesday	
		Commodities: Rubber index was at 1402.3 (previous 1398.1)	
		Reports, pages 23 and 24	

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Business appointments 22 Wall Street 24
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Exxon laser puts a tiger in the atom pile

A major advance in the enrichment of uranium appears to have been made by Exxon Nuclear, the Seattle-based subsidiary of Exxon, the United States oil group, which could have profound effects on the uranium industry and the spread of nuclear weapons.

A spokesman for Exxon Nuclear said yesterday that laboratory tests on the use of lasers in the enrichment of uranium had been successful enough for the company to decide to build a pilot test-plant. He confirmed that the United States Government had recently placed the project on the secret list.

He denied that the company had made a breakthrough in new technology and claimed that the secrecy imposed by the United States Government was because of its fear of proliferation of nuclear weapons "which we frankly don't believe exists".

However, the very fact that the company is committing itself to the expensive process of setting up a pilot plant suggests that it has found, at least in theory, the way to apply laser technology to the enrichment of uranium.

If the pilot plant tests are successful, the spokesman thought the laser process would be used in tandem with the centrifuge process, which currently leaves considerable waste.

If Exxon is successful its process could revolutionize the uranium enrichment process. But it also raises the spectre of rapid proliferation of nuclear weapons if countries without enrichment facilities could obtain the necessary technology.

Theoretically, once lasers have been harnessed to work in tandem with the centrifuge process, it would be a relatively small step to use them for the whole of the enrichment process.

The current enrichment processes—gaseous diffusion or centrifuge—are vastly expensive, very energy intensive and require large plants. The laser process could alter all this and make weapons-grade material easily and relatively cheaply available.

Widespread use of the process could lead to a substantial decline in demand for uranium and pose a question-mark over the need for reprocessing facilities, such as Windscale.

Under the two existing enrichment processes, according to London stockbrokers W. J. Carr, between 35 per cent to 45 per cent of the fissile isotope U235 is uneconomical to recover, and is therefore lost. While the laser process would not be 100 per cent perfect, it would cut down the losses dramatically and thus cut down the demand for U308.

At present there is good demand for uranium. However, the world-wide nuclear power station programme has been slowing down recently while there are several major uranium deposits in Australia waiting for government permission to be developed.

Also, what appears to be a major new uranium deposit has recently been uncovered in Australia's Northern Territory.

The possibility of a more efficient enrichment process being introduced in the next decade at the time of large new mines in Australia coming on stream could cause a glut of U308. At the same time, since there would be more enriched uranium available, there would be less need for the reprocessing of spent nuclear fuel from power stations.

Desmond Quigley

Miners' pay plan rallies the markets

By Alison Mitchell

Gifts and equities bounced back yesterday in some hectic after-hours trading, after the miners' leaders' decision to settle within the Government's pay guidelines and the Chancellor's hint that there would be no electioneering in the spring Budget.

Gilt-edged securities jumped as much as 22 at the longer end while the FT Ordinary share index went ahead in the late afternoon to close at 468.4, a net gain of 4.7.

Tuesday's disappointing banking figures, which had been overbanging the equity and gilt markets, appear now to have been fully discounted and some dealers were showing confidence that the rally could continue to the end of the week.

Late inter-office trading added four to five pence to many leading shares as buying orders, of between 25,000 and 30,000, indicated institutional support.

Treasury bill rates also had a volatile session. At one point, trading indicated that minimum lending rate could rise as high as 8 per cent tomorrow. But by the close, the levels were on a "same again" basis, 6 1/2 per cent.

Pound rallies: After losing a cent earlier in the day, and dropping 0.5 points on the effective rate, the sterling picked up to close down 10 points, against the dollar at 193.35. The effective rate index for the pound closed down 0.3 points on the day at 68.0.

The French franc continued to recover, to reach 4.8575 against the dollar. This leaves its dollar value about 3 per cent less than before last week's slide.

The dealers cited rumours of a new opinion poll showing support for the French Government, and of an agreement on stabilizing between Herr Schmidt, the West German Chancellor and M. Giscard d'Estaing, the French President, as positive factors for the franc.

The dollar firmed in fairly thin trading, showing the Deutsche mark and Swiss franc as New York stock exchange opened again after Tuesday's snow storm.

Iceland devaluation: Iceland yesterday announced a 1.1 per cent devaluation of its currency, the krona. Financial circles had regarded the move as inevitable following last Sunday's suspension of foreign currency trading by the Icelandic Central Bank. The krona has recently traded at around 215 to the United States dollar.

Financial Editor, page 21

Grindlay Brands Limited, 23 Fenchurch Street, London EC3P 1ED Tel: 01-424 0945
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A member of the Grindlays Bank Group.

New moves to end dispute at Triumph

By R. W. Shakespeare

New moves to try to end one of British Leyland's longest and costliest strikes were made yesterday when senior management and shop stewards met for the first time since the strike began.

Last night the shop stewards were holding a separate meeting, and this is expected to be followed by a mass meeting of the strikers later this week.

The strike by 2,000 workers has stopped all production at the Speke plant in Liverpool, where TR7 output is based, since November 1 of last year. It has also stopped output of Dolomite cars at the Coventry assembly lines which rely on the Merseyside plant for car body pressings.

Long before the walk-out at Speke there was rumbling unrest over proposed new manning and production schedules which resulted from a long series of studies made by industrial engineers, and in all Leyland has lost production of cars worth almost £100m.

The walk-out came when, after eight months of negotiations, the company decided to put the new working arrangements into operation. Shop stewards immediately claimed that this was a breach of local agreements, and they still refuse to accept the company's ruling on reduced manning levels.

Yesterday's talks, it is thought, were a final effort by the stewards to win some concession from the company on manning levels before calling a meeting—the first since soon after the strike began—which a vote will be taken on whether or not to continue the stoppage.

All the indications are that Leyland—and in particular its new chairman Mr Michael Edwards—are not prepared to compromise.

Leyland has maintained throughout the strike that it took its plans through all stages of the agreed negotiating procedures before putting them into effect, admittedly in the face of a failure to reach a satisfactory agreement at plant level.

£50m steel jacket order by Shell/Esso

By Roger Violevoe

A design contract for a £50m steel jacket for a production platform to serve the North Cormorant oilfield in the north-east Shetland basin has been placed with CJB-Earl and Wright by the Shell/Esso consortium.

If the overall development plan for the field is approved by the main boards of the two oil companies and the Department of Energy, the design contract could lead to tender for the work towards the end of this year.

Exploration and Production, the operators for the group, is still unsure whether the North Cormorant field in block 211/21 is linked to the main Cormorant field in the adjoining block 212/26. The latter is believed to be in 160 metres of water and will be capable of handling 180,000 barrels a day.

Shell's decision to opt for a steel platform on the field is yet another disappointment for

Denial of need for missile link in Vietnam ship deal talks

By Peter Hill

Industrial Correspondent

Executives of British Shipbuilders yesterday for talks on a £25m shipbuilding deal with Vietnam. Officials of the state shipbuilding corporation flatly denied that the Vietnamese had indicated in earlier discussions that they wanted the decks of the ships specially strengthened to accommodate missile systems, but speculation has continued.

However, it is known that British Shipbuilders, in cooperation with Ministry of Defence naval architects and technical experts have been working on a design for a hybrid merchant ship which could be offered to developing countries. In recent months discussions have been taking place with a potential

customer, but difficulties have arisen because the customer has indicated that if it bought the ships from Britain, it would want to incorporate a missile system manufactured in Israel. This demand clearly poses a major problem for Britain which has placed great emphasis on developing its trade with the Arab world. If Britain were to incorporate the Israeli missile system, it would immediately expose the United Kingdom shipbuilding industry to blacklisting by the Arab boycott office.

The identity of the potential customer has not been disclosed, but if it emerged that it was the Communist regime in Vietnam, it would spark off a major row in Parliament, coming so soon after the much criticized deal with Poland, and

the six-ship deal with India—expected to be confirmed shortly—where Britain is providing £52m development aid to the Indian government in order to buy the ships.

Yesterday's officials from Austin & Pickersley and Mr John Parker, the company's former managing director, left for Hanoi for further talks on a possible deal for either three or five SD14 cargo ships worth £15m to £25m.

The Communist government's interest in the SD14—the world's most successful standard design cargo ship—stems from an international shipping exhibition in Norway last summer. Austin & Pickersley believes that the financial terms which it has been able to offer have placed it in a strong position to secure the orders.

Bill for audit committees comes up again tomorrow

A private member's Bill promoting audit committees and a statutory number of non-executive directors for companies above a certain size will come up for its second reading in the Commons tomorrow.

Proposed by Sir Brandon Rhys Williams, Conservative MP for Kensington, the Bill is a hardy annual, but now has the support of two Labour men and Mr John Pardo, Liberal MP for North Cornwall.

Similar ideas were also discussed in the recent Government White Paper on the conduct of company directors, some of which is expected to be included in legislation in a government-sponsored Companies Bill to be published next month. Sir Brandon's Bill calls for at least three non-executive directors to be appointed to all companies where there are either 1,500 employees or net assets of more than £5m.

Audit committees should be introduced in companies with more than 10,000 employees and net assets of more than £100m. It is estimated that no more than 200 of the largest businesses would need to set up



Sir Brandon Rhys Williams: Bill now has support.

audit committees if the Bill became law. The proposals are likely to gain widespread sympathy both within the accounting profession and the Department of Trade, but it looks unlikely that they will become law.

In its White Paper the Department of Trade said that initially at least the Government felt it was better for companies, investors and their representatives to have a work scheme which could be modified to a greater degree of flexibility than the law could provide.

Stock Exchange calls for end of dividend curbs

By Our Financial Staff

A restructuring of the tax system being called for by the Stock Exchange to assist people to put their savings into industry and trade, and not punish them for doing it. An announcement of an intention to end dividend restraint is also urged.

While recognizing the progress made in halting the growth of public sector spending, the Stock Exchange still finds the underlying trends in the economy unsatisfactory and contends that the tax system should be used to encourage savings, in order to provide industry with the necessary funds for investment and expansion.

In a pre-Budget submission of its views, the Stock Exchange proposes the abolition of the investment surcharge and repeats its view that capital taxes "are now too many and too complex".

Capital gains tax should also be abolished in the 1978 Finance Bill. The surcharge would be replaced by a 400m to 500m index to index or taper the charge would reduce the yield, create additional complexity and interfere with the timing of investment decisions.

The Stock Exchange also calls for the speedy implementation of the European Council of Ministers' proposals for reducing transfer stamp duty from 2 per cent to a maximum of 0.6 per cent. The cut, the Stock Exchange argues, would make direct investment in British industry more attractive to both domestic and overseas investors.

It would also help London to become the major centre of European finance. The yield at 2 per cent in 1975-76, a year of high equity turnover, was only £140m even taking in fixed interest stocks.

Dividend restraint is condemned as a "piece of window-dressing which actually does harm to many people".

Treasury airs views on new strategy

By Melvyn Westlake

The Treasury has finally responded to criticisms from economists over its failure to give any public consideration to the concept of a "full employment budget balance", as used in some other major industrialized countries.

Such a concept, it has been argued, would provide a better indication of the Government's real fiscal stance when it set public spending and taxation levels in times of recession.

The reason for having a "full employment budget balance" or "standardized budget balance" is that allowance can be made in spending and taxation levels for the fact that a recession automatically pushes up government spending on unemployment benefits and reduces tax revenues.

Only when allowance is made for these factors is it possible to discern whether the Budget strategy is restrictive or expansionary. Economists from both the National Institute for Economic and Social Research and the Department of Applied Economics, Cambridge, have argued in favour of this concept.

The Treasury have now produced a Working Paper on the subject, partially reproduced in the latest edition of *Economic Progress Report*, describing the difficulties that it believes are inherent in such a concept. The paper shows that on Treasury estimates the public sector deficit would have been about £3,000m less in 1976 than the £8,300m deficit actually recorded.

This is based on a level of economic activity consistent with 3 per cent jobless.

Aerospace cuts denied by Lucas

By Clifford Webb

One in three of the 12,000 labour force employed in the 13 aerospace factories of Lucas Industries will lose their jobs in a big cutback being planned by the division's new chief executive, shop stewards claimed yesterday.

But this was immediately denied by a Lucas Group spokesman who said: "It is true that we are looking at restructuring the aerospace division but we have not yet decided on any specific redundancies or on the cards. It would appear that the shop stewards are reading too much into what has been said."

Despite this denial, members of the Lucas Aerospace combined shop stewards committee believe that Mr Byth had made it plain that the company's action was necessary to reduce a work force which was one third over-manned.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Nuclear power worries remain

From Mr M. E. Derbyshire

Sir, The authors of "Nuclear power: advantages that outweigh the risks" (February 6) claim to answer objectively the genuine anxieties of the public concerning the safety of nuclear power. They conclude that the risks are less than those which society has come to accept from other man-made sources of energy. It is curious that they fail to mention the most worrying aspect of all—the fact that it was felt necessary in the Nuclear Installations (Licensing and Insurance) Act of 1959 to limit the liability of operators of nuclear power stations in claims for damages. Surely society expects all energy supply industries to meet such claims without limit. If nuclear power provides no exceptional risks, why has it been treated so exceptionally?

Yours faithfully,
M. E. DERBYSHIRE,
White Chapel, Gosnarth, Preston, PR3 2ER.
February 6.

ad infinitum; the risks are leakage, radiation, terrorism, world destruction, etc.

The authors assume that there will be no progress in "natural" forms of energy by the time mineral resources run out. This is a totally unrealistic assumption. If one considers how much progress there has been in nuclear power in the last 35 years, then to say that this cannot happen in the case of solar energy, wave power, etc., is ludicrous.

Secondly, experiences at Windscale have shown just how easily things go wrong and this is just in a decade. What about the future? Anything could happen. To quote Professor Rasmussen, as they do, on the likelihood of a major accident and then to use this as support for nuclear power is foolish.

For every one professor saying one thing there is always another saying the complete opposite.

The authors are far too calm and complacent about the dangers of nuclear power. The reality is that the nuclear age marked the beginning of man's unlimited ability to destroy himself.

Yours faithfully,
S. DURHAM,
17 Fernham Avenue, Hassocks, Sussex.

Need for information

From Mr L. Scruton

Sir, While the CBI contests the need for fuller company reports for general enlightenment (February 6), there is a large proportion of most companies' short-term borrowings.

We need disclosure to generate trust, but I believe this should be encouraged without legislation.

Yours truly,
L. SCRUTON,
138 Mandeville Road, Hertford, SG13 8JL.
February 6.

What a broker can offer

From Mr Richard A. Weston

Sir, I have read with interest the correspondence on the subject of insurance brokers' commission, and while I am not a claims adjuster, I believe that payment by commission will be with us forever. I do accept it as a convenient way to remunerate the broker.

However, I feel that the correspondence has missed the point that it is still only a means to an end, and that its use has overlooked that generally speaking the higher rated risks demand more work from the broker than those with lower rates.

The two main causes of high premium are, first, a highly rated industry, for example,

Qualifications of company secretaries

From the President of the Institute of Company Secretaries and Administrators

Sir, Last year Parliament legislated for the registration of secretaries—no doubt for the reasonable protection of investors—but still the Government has declined to go on to demand registered companies with new legislation but refusing to provide in the Companies Acts that the secretary of every public listed company, at least, should be appropriately qualified.

The Companies (Qualification of Company Secretaries) Bill which is being sponsored by Mr John Cockcroft, MP, seeks to put this right in the House of Commons on Friday.

All companies registered under the Companies Acts have to appoint a company secretary, but there is nothing to say that anyone in the boardroom, whether a director or the company secretary, needs to be qualified as a chartered accountant. Moreover, when the law is changed, it is not clear how the law will require any qualification at all.

The unwillingness of the Government to add, even marginally, to the legislation scarcely follows their practice in the Companies Act of 1967, when it proposed is not a closed shop, but merely an assurance to the investing public that someone must be appointed to the boardroom who is appropriately professionally qualified to the duties of the secretary.

We now have a White Paper on the conduct of directors, but nothing, except Mr Cockcroft's Bill, to ensure that a tested level of competence and integrity is available in the boardroom, not just by order of the board, but by the law.

I refer to the "break" clause which stipulated that rent revision must reflect current market values, but can only be altered in an upward direction. This clause is not totally inequitable, it also invites inflation.

I suggest it would be of considerable public benefit if this rider to the "break" clause were to be outlawed by a simple Act of Parliament, in much the same way as inequitable small print disclaimers of responsibility have recently been nullified by the Unfair Contract Terms Act 1977.

Yours sincerely,
DONALD MAXWELL, Director,
British Marine Equipment
The Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators,
111-112 Whitechapel High Street, London, E1 7PT.
February 6.

Over-production of coal

From Mr M. Brocklesby

Sir, Most of the arguments put by Mr Davies in support of opencast mining (January 30) are inaccurate or misleading but his economic case requires particular comment.

In 1974 Plan for Coal defined a £3,150m investment programme to increase the capacity of the deep mines to 135m tons by 1985. As demand was expected to rise to 150m tons it was decided, as an additional measure to increase opencast output to 15m tons. This made sense at the time. Demand, however, did not rise and, in spite of the drop in deep mine productivity, supply of both steam and coking coal has exceeded demand over the last two financial years.

The CEBG is subsidized to carry costs in excess of economic requirements to ease the NCB's problems of over production and at the end of March these were valued at £119.3m. In the depressed coking coal market there is even more serious over production.

The NCB had achieved a proper return on its deep mine investment since 1974 it would have mined a further 32m tons of unwanted coal.

The viability of the capital intensive deep mines depends on the optimum deployment of their installed capacity which, based on the conservative Plan for Coal, is now 126m tons, about 5m tons more than current demand without recovery to any opencast mining at all. It is normal commercial practice for a company to plan to make maximum use of its

own production capacity first and to sub-contract only when demand exceeds that capacity.

Mr Davies, however, plans to maximize the sub-contracting of coal production to the civil engineering firms irrespective of demand. His policy can only be justified by the assumption that the Plan for Coal investment programme will never be successful and that the incentive scheme will not achieve the 15 per cent improvement which the NCB claims to expect. The financial penalty can be assessed as the marginal profit from a new opencast site of about £7 per ton (1976/77 price levels) is compared with the marginal profit of additional production from the existing surplus capacity in the deep mines of the order of £13 per ton.

In the light of the United Kingdom energy situation over the 20 years there is an irreconcilable conflict between a policy of "maximizing" opencast and Plan for Coal investment in the deep mines which would result in a financial waste to the NCB of some £1,800m.

Using the wider-based criteria of resource costs advocated by the working document on energy policy, the cost to the community would be much greater. In addition, a valuable strategic reserve of 300m tons of quickly accessible coal would be squandered just before the period when there might be a need for it.

Yours faithfully,
Orison Civic Society,
Orison House,
Cockley Road,
Orison,
Leeds,
February 6.

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF MEETING OF CREDITORS. The Companies Act, 1948. In the Matter of HAYVAN ELECTRONICS Limited. Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the creditors of the above-named company is to be held at 11.30 a.m. on Wednesday, 22nd February 1978, at the offices of the Liquidator, 25 Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF, for the purpose of considering the proposed arrangement for the winding-up of the company and for the appointment of a Liquidator. The meeting will be held at 11.30 a.m. on Wednesday, 22nd February 1978, at the offices of the Liquidator, 25 Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF, for the purpose of considering the proposed arrangement for the winding-up of the company and for the appointment of a Liquidator. The meeting will be held at 11.30 a.m. on Wednesday, 22nd February 1978, at the offices of the Liquidator, 25 Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF, for the purpose of considering the proposed arrangement for the winding-up of the company and for the appointment of a Liquidator.

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MISCELLANEOUS FINANCIAL

LOCAL AUTHORITY BILLS. 1978. The Local Authorities (Financial Provisions) Bill, 1978, is now being considered by the House of Commons. The bill provides for the introduction of a new system of local authority finance, which will be based on a new system of rates. The bill also provides for the introduction of a new system of local authority borrowing, which will be based on a new system of bonds. The bill is expected to be passed by the House of Commons in the near future.

COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY. The Companies Act, 1948. In the Matter of HAYVAN ELECTRONICS Limited. Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the creditors of the above-named company is to be held at 11.30 a.m. on Wednesday, 22nd February 1978, at the offices of the Liquidator, 25 Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF, for the purpose of considering the proposed arrangement for the winding-up of the company and for the appointment of a Liquidator. The meeting will be held at 11.30 a.m. on Wednesday, 22nd February 1978, at the offices of the Liquidator, 25 Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF, for the purpose of considering the proposed arrangement for the winding-up of the company and for the appointment of a Liquidator.

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ITALIAN PASTA MANUFACTURER seeks agents and/or distributors for his quality products on the English market. If you are interested, please write to: Magni & Vajra Gallo-corsio Montevicchio 38-10129 TORINO (Italy)

CONTRACTS AND TENDERS

Construction of Housing Projects. The Central Tenders Board has invited international tenders for the construction of housing projects for the Government of Trinidad and Tobago. The projects include the construction of 5,500 housing units at sites located at Malabar, Trinity and Caroni in the island of Trinidad.

2. The scope of work under this Tender includes the design and construction of (a) all necessary infrastructure on the three sites with respect to (i) earthwork (ii) roads (iii) drains (iv) water supply (v) sewerage including pump stations and/or treatment plants (b) the design and construction of 5,500 dwelling units using pre-fabricated building systems. Special consideration will be given to the employment of local labour and the maximum use of locally produced building materials.

3. Interested Contractors must provide evidence that they have satisfactorily performed comparable work.

4. Priced tenders will be invited only from Contractors who have been pre-qualified. Firms invited to submit tenders must be prepared to provide evidence of their financial ability to undertake a contract of this size. In addition, they will be required to submit the names of available qualified key personnel and their experience and list of equipment available for the construction of the housing units.

5. Contractors wishing to be included in the short list of firms which will be invited to tender for the 1978 programme of works should apply before 1st March, 1978, to: The Project Co-ordinator, Mr. Ronald P. Walker, Ministry of Finance (Housing), 48 St. Vincent Street, Port of Spain, Trinidad, West Indies. Telephone 62-3334 or 62-34288. All enquiries on technical matters should be addressed to the Project Co-ordinator.

6. All Interested Contractors who would have applied to the Project Co-ordinator should notify the Director of Contracts accordingly, either by letter or Telex, addressed to him at his Office at The Central Tenders Board, 48/50 St. Vincent Street, Port of Spain, Trinidad, West Indies. Telephone 62-33320 or 62-34526. The Trinidad and Tobago High Commission, 42 Belgrave Square, London, S.W.1, will facilitate transmission of applications received not later than February 27, 1978.

EDUCATIONAL

ST. EDWARD'S SCHOOL. OXFORD. Sixth form entrance scholarship. The school offers a scholarship of up to half fees for boys who wish to enter for the sixth form in the autumn term. The scholarship is open to boys who are under 16 years of age on 1st September. The school is a day school for boys and girls, and is one of the leading schools in Oxford.

G.C.E. DEGREE and Professional. The school offers a scholarship of up to half fees for boys who wish to enter for the sixth form in the autumn term. The scholarship is open to boys who are under 16 years of age on 1st September. The school is a day school for boys and girls, and is one of the leading schools in Oxford.

TELEVISION STUDIES. The school offers a scholarship of up to half fees for boys who wish to enter for the sixth form in the autumn term. The scholarship is open to boys who are under 16 years of age on 1st September. The school is a day school for boys and girls, and is one of the leading schools in Oxford.

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BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Monetary choices for the authorities

It was one of those days in financial markets yesterday. Depression in the morning as money supply fears raised their ugly head once again. Euphoria in the afternoon thanks to Mr Hesley's indication of a responsible Budget and the apparent cave-in of the miners.

What the market did not get, however, and hardly surprisingly, was any firm promise from the Chancellor that the pinging of the present dividend controls this year would automatically herald a new era of total dividend freedom. That is likely to worry those who believe that the government will be unable to carry legislation for a further period of controls.

But there remains the possibility that dividends could fall within the net of any 6-summer package aimed at sewing up a rather stage of incomes policy. That said, the case for the speedy ending of the tortuous caused by dividend controls does, course, remain as strong as ever.

Meanwhile, just how far the prospect of a satisfactory settlement to the miners' pay will serve to encourage the gilt market rains to be seen. Yesterday it was enough help send the bears scurrying for cover to attract modest investment demand. The next major question is how soon the authorities are prepared to test the market activating the long "tap".

They can do that successfully, other anxieties may start to recede. If cannot, it seems unlikely that the authorities will be able to risk a neutral stance for all that long. Given that nothing sharp rise in MLR would bolster confidence, markets were tending to dismiss possibility by yesterday afternoon, both political grounds and on the view that it is little sense while ultra short term interest rates remained so soft and loan and so flat.

It might not seem a justifiable stance for monetarists; but opinion seemed to be yesterday towards the idea that, if further action was considered necessary, "corset" was the easiest line politically. The moment, though, the most that can aid is that market sentiment, if somewhat buoyed up by late yesterday, remains and the situation fluid.

THF has now achieved the sort of balance sheet that allows further scope for manoeuvre. It is a factor, along with the possibilities in a new three times covered dividend, yielding 6.7 per cent, that could promote further buying of the shares.

Decca A case for streamlining

The four-year profits decline in the consumer goods operations of Decca continues with a £555,000 loss on lower turnover at the interim stage. This left capital goods with a 14 per cent improvement on static turnover, to hold group profits at £52m before tax, marginally down on the year before.

Imbalance of this kind makes Decca look increasingly like a company in need of streamlining, a feeling that is strengthened by the contrast between the company's highly optimistic statements about the future of the electronics side and the bleak outlook for television together with the uncertain prospects for recovery in records.

For the moment, however, there are no signs of streamlining in the troubled consumer goods division, and, with little likelihood of enfranchisement of the "A" shares in the near future, shareholders will for the time being just have to hope that the capital goods side can keep up its growth pending some revival from the consumer side.

Speculative hopes apart, this presents a bleak immediate future for the shares. Both ordinary and "A" were down 15p yesterday to 445p and 435p respectively, where, on the forecast of lower profits for the year, they sell on a prospective p/e ratio of 13 or more and yield 4 per cent.



Everything seems to take twice as long as anticipated at United Dominions Trust. Mr Len Mather, the chairman (above), has now reported pre-tax profits in the six months to last December some £2m to £3m below outside estimates at £9.1m, so hopes that the group will be able to rebuild its reserves will have to be deferred again.

Even though the decline in interest rates and pick-up in instalment credit business has not worked the same wonders as at other finance house groups who have reported recently—according to the group because its other constituents like the commodity clearing house are not all pulling together—the main damage at the net level has come from further extraordinary write-offs, this time from currency conversions and the incongruous investment in Ryan Nigel property group in South Africa.

So the fact that UDT has managed to retain £700,000, as much as in the whole of the previous year, owes a lot to the low 30 per cent tax charge, reflecting the sizable United Kingdom tax losses.

Far the future, UDT is talking optimistically about business and the property book has declined from £91m to £79m. But the unanswered question, of course, is when the group will step ashore from the banking lifeboat. Lifeline support is now down from a peak £450m to under £300m and UDT claims deposits are coming in more strongly and maturities are lengthening. But it is still having to pay premium rates on lifeboat funds.

Meanwhile, the arrears on the preference stocks limit hopes of dividend payments much before the end of 1979, interest rates are hardening and the shares, after yesterday's 3p fall to 38p, are roughly in line with asset value, so the fun in UDT appears to be over now that takeover rumours have died down.

Economic notebook

Dollar, dollar dolorosa

"A little local difficulty" was a tongue in cheek characterization made by one senior banker of the French franc's sudden plunge at the end of last week.

It is a measure of the present instability on the world's financial markets that a 4 per cent fall in the value of a currency in less than a week can be dismissed so lightly.

As far as can be told from the few statistics which are available, last year saw a massive increase in the amount spent by governments in foreign exchange market interventions, but there were still wide and sometimes wild fluctuations in rates.

Few in the world of international finance expect 1978 to be very different. The troubles of the franc are indicative of the general instability, but a much more important feature of this same would say its prime cause, is the uncertainty which still surrounds the dollar.

The peace which reigned on the markets between the announcement of active American intervention in early January and the upset over the franc was a very uneasy one. The markets were now quiet at least partly because they do not know which way to jump next.

The yawning American payments deficit which undermined confidence last year persists and will not go away for quite some time. Of course it can in theory be financed easily by capital inflows, although it only will be if there is "confidence" in the dollar.

What scared off the inflows last year was the fear that money in dollars was bound to lose its value, and when the United States authorities appeared to welcome a depreciation the fear turned to panic.

The Americans have now shown that they will not allow the currency markets to seize up for lack of dollar buyers.

What worries the international bankers and the strong countries whose currencies are alternatives to the dollar, is that barring such extremes of disorder in the markets the United States remains committed to free floating and that this commitment, combined with the current account deficit, can itself be destabilizing.

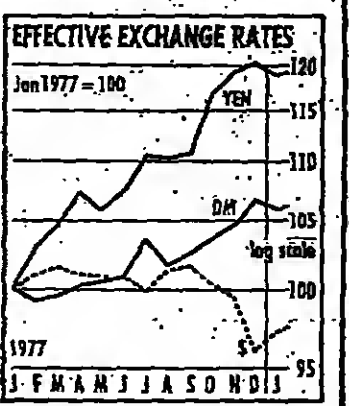
The activation of the United States swap facilities provides a breathing space but they are only a short-term instrument.

Why should the Americans resist a dollar depreciation which, in theory at least, will help to correct their trade imbalance should the market deem fit? The well rehearsed United States argument is that if only the German and Japanese would reflect the problem would go away. It would certainly be diminished.

However, the problem goes deeper than that. The present international monetary system is built around the dollar's role as chief medium of exchange into and out of dollar areas. Movements in the dollar value can thus reflect trade imbalances but can be easily swelled by considerations of its value as an asset.

For as long as the dollar has this key role the Americans cannot ignore its effect on the rest of the world of changes in the value of the dollar. This is not to say that the responsibility for calm in foreign exchange markets rests solely on their shoulders, nor that they should tailor their domestic monetary and fiscal policy to the needs of the rest of the world.

Rather it suggests the need for a modification of the dollar's role. The United States is no longer the economic giant it once was. The dollar's role as a dollar plunge last year, and the danger of a further slide this, shows up a vacuum in the system.



currency is the Deutsche mark. The German mark, a sign of this, but there is a widespread belief that they cannot hold back the tide. A great switch has anyway occurred between dollars and marks over the last year.

Details of the currencies held in official balances are not published, but it seems certain that there has been a build up in official mark holdings.

The Germans point to the problems Britain had in maintaining the pound as a reserve currency, and the constraints this placed on domestic policy, as explanation of their own unwillingness to allow the mark to be used as a reserve currency.

However, these would be less serious for Germany with their typically healthy balance of payments and low inflation, than for high inflation, high importing Britain.

However, as an American economist said in the 1940s, "the problem of international monetary stability is primarily that of maintaining a state of proper health in the leading countries".

To a large extent the present currency instability reflects the failure of the industrialized world to shake off recession and agree on how best to tackle their persistent high unemployment, slow growth and continuing inflation. And the way to this, how to share out the payments deficit, forced on them by the Opec surplus which is now at the heart of the world payments system.

Increasingly interdependent capital markets, and the huge rise in internationally mobile capital exacerbates the instability which shifting deficits cause.

This contrasts with the ability of Europe and Japan in the 1950s and 1960s to pursue the current account surpluses which provided a good background for high employment, low inflation, and trade liberalization, while the United States ran a deficit. No improvements in the payments system would be sufficient to solve this problem.

Caroline Atkinson

No cause for defeatism at British Leyland



Derek Robinson (above) discusses the new strategy at Leyland. He is chairman of the Combined Shop Stewards Committee and the senior trade union spokesman on the Leyland Cars Joint Management Council—the top tier of the company's worker participation machinery.

There is a certain irony about the acclaim accorded over the past week to Mr Michael Edwards, the new chairman of British Leyland. It suggests a perverse delight that someone has at last taken the axe, for good or for ill, to what is one of the nation's leading companies and most successful exporters.

After three months of deliberation the two main decisions from Mr Edwards are:

1. To reverse the trend of the past decade and try to break down Leyland into its constituent parts—an action totally counter to the policies of integration pursued by major car makers throughout the world.
2. Publicly to announce that "People are now walking past our showrooms" and that we can expect to sell no more than 815,000 vehicles this year.

The first point Mr Edwards does not intend to trade unions to tell him—he has received enough warnings from his own management—how foolhardy it would be to attempt to overturn progress made over the past years towards achieving economies of scale. Work is already well advanced to reduce the number of different body shells and to develop common power and transmission units and components.

Moreover, the impact upon morale at plant level of a complete U-turn from the philosophy advocated in the Ryder plan less than three years ago will be damaging. With each shell of Leyland's already depleted management more talent is lost: shop stewards are already beginning to lose track of the changing faces on the management side of the negotiating table.

The defeatist attitude which Mr Edwards has so far adopted towards Leyland's performance is a matter of concern for the trade unions, and we are determined to maintain our campaign to go for an output of at least 1 million vehicles. The chairman made some move towards a position by including in the resolution adopted by management and union representatives at Kenilworth a pledge to make further efforts to increase market share.

The virtually unanimous support the shop stewards were able to give to Mr Edwards' seven-point resolution, underlines the common sense of management and trade unions to secure a profitable future for the company. He would be foolish to treat lightly the goodwill that he now enjoys.

We are pledged to make every effort to improve quality, reduce the number of disputes and ensure continuity of production. Indeed at factory meetings the Cars Council, the top tier worker participation body, has gained overwhelming support for such a strategy.

The trade unions understand as clearly as Mr Edwards that productivity must be raised to the level of our international competitors in order to make Leyland viable. However, management must not consider that it has a blank cheque to push through changes unilaterally.

A review of car operations to assess the impact of the toolmakers' strike was approved by the British Leyland board in the summer; it recommended that the Ryder objectives of a 32 per cent market share and an annual output of 1.2 million vehicles were still attainable.

But merely to concentrate attention on the past 12 months is to ignore the problems inherent within the month that is Leyland. Its very creation was the result of a

series of defensive mergers and acquisitions under the pressure of market forces. Throwing together such a range of once proud and often individualistic companies confronted management with an awesome task.

Mr Edwards is certainly not the first, and probably not the last, to wrestle with the organizational issues. He maintains that there was neither the strength of management nor the time available to make workable the organization devised by Ryder. It is only to be hoped that the Government allows Mr Edwards the time to make his alternative work.

But the issue on which the trade unions are best qualified to comment is industrial relations. Here Labour ministers who have adopted a self-righteous attitude to the problems of the company, should accept their share of responsibility. It was sheer hypocrisy to first bind Leyland management hand and foot within the confines of incomes policy and then tell them to sort out the company's chaotic wage and bargaining structure.

The toolmakers' strike erupted last year but its origins go back further. Six years of almost continuous wage restraint have created anomalies and eroded differentials to the point where there is unrest throughout British industry.

The fact that trouble broke out at Leyland should have come as no surprise. Which other major company was asked to carry such a burden of pay anachronisms in addition to the pressures caused by wage restraint?

Leyland was precluded from sorting out the mess by the rigour of official Government policy. Even under the so-called return to free collective bargaining of phase three, it has not been possible to implement a common pay starting date for all 34 plants.

Clearly, the reasons for the collapse of Ryder are far wider than the issue of labour relations. However, we for our part have taken an unprecedented initiative to try to improve output and quality. But continuity of production and high efficiency will be more readily achieved under an aggressive policy of expansion.

We draw support for the viability of our alternative strategy from the fact that other managers within Leyland apparently do not share Mr Edwards' pessimistic view. The chairman has been emphatic that, even without any further industrial troubles this year, sales can be no more than 815,000—an average 27 per cent market share.

But Leyland Cars' 1978 budget, presented to the Cars Council only last month, stated that, on a conservative assessment, a 29 per cent share could be achieved by the end of the year. Potential existed for sales in excess of that and the trade had set targets of around a 32 per cent market share.

In the words of the management presentation: "It would be very easy to be too pessimistic and structure the operation by reducing production programmes, thus making doom a self-fulfilling prophecy. We are certain that we must leave the way open to demonstrate for all to see, that we must, can and will achieve a much higher United Kingdom market share than any of our unfavourable critics believe possible."

That, basically, is also the view of the shop stewards.

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st Houses Forte st profits from Lyons deal

Houses Forte caught the market on top yesterday with profits some £3m of best expectations at £38m. That ed with a still improving balance was enough to see the shares 9p ahead of trading at 186p.

act, the "bonus" from THF is not so sing given that it is now widely ed in the hotels business that the deal, under which THF paid £27.1m, ch £7.2m, was in cash and the balance out in 5 per cent promissory notes even years for 35 hotels, was nothing as a stroke of brilliance. Of a 33p ar in trading profit to £54.3m which as turned in for 1977, some £7m net contribution from the Terry which id is from the Lyons and Knott hotels tions which have clipped in for nine ht months respectively.

doubt that as the Lyons hotels be fully integrated into THF's inter marketing network that the return improved. So the key question is r THF, holding a powerful position London hotel business and after a which occupancy rates overall ex by around 5 per cent, will start to goine slightly tougher on the basis : tourist boom will be blunted by the i of sterling this summer.

is no evidence of this yet—THF's during the first quarter are ahead of r and hotel occupancy is said to be up well. Moreover, when sterling against the dollar there is every why there should be more United tourists in Britain this year.

a balance sheet, a partial revaluation erties has produced £38m and s released £13.2m from deferred . So shareholders' funds have been up by 53 per cent to £193m while ital is only marginally up at £213m the Lyons deal.

iquid assets up from £25m to £44m.

Business Diary: Book value? • Sinclair's radionic woman

ce maintenance may be chesed from one hipeouts in Britain. ade. Since last summe- ice Commission has signing books and

sumers' Association, her of which, has opportunity to pitch er of evidence argu- is time price fixing was made illegal. it recalls, the pub- d booksellers con- Restrictive Practices. "books were dif- hey argued that if : maintenance were e book trade, there e fewer bookshops. id cost more and ould be published. nca 1962, bookshops ed in number any- ore and more shops types were selling.

ng is already being, ndermined by the book clubs and by "remastering" of discount clearance

l a reduction in the des published seem- ring any disaster. re were 27,000 new- per cent increase f figure since 1962. omers' Association at if price fixing i, some minority : might cost more.

uncan rose from sales director in id within two years upled export sales ries she had been rement yesterday Radionics group, and sells a

Photograph: John Player

Sinclair Equipment's Lorna Duncan in London yesterday: from secretary to sales director.

earned Miss Duncan the first of a new annual award for "outstanding contribution to commercial enterprise" by young people to be made by the City of Westminster Chamber of Commerce.

Miss Duncan, who is 21, received a silver trophy, the Silver Jubilee Award, and a cheque from the president of the chamber, Lord Craigton, at a ceremony in London yesterday.

She is sales director of Sinclair Equipment International, a London-based overseas marketing company to the Sinclair Radionics group, and sells a

digital multimeter or electricity supply measurer.

Miss Duncan began as secretary to SEI managing director Bill Sinclair and six months later was given her head as the executive responsible for world sales of the device outside the United States and United Kingdom.

Her method, Sinclair told the chamber of commerce, was to find first-class agents and then to follow through so they knew how to sell the device and actually did so.

The chamber of commerce was so pleased with the standard of entries that they decided to present three certificates of merit, all to young men.

Geoffrey Holliman, who is 34, was honoured for a brain wave as advertisement sales manager with London Transport: he thought up the 25 jubilee buses which were specially painted silver so that their advertising could be sold at £10,000 a time. This earned £150,000 net for LT.

Howard Masoo, 24, a British Aircraft Corporation mathematician, was commended for helping the corporation to start selling computer software to the Russians.

Lastly, there was a certificate for Graham Thomas, 34, the European Sales Manager (Circulation) of The Economist, who helped push up European sales volume by nearly half.

The organization developing the ideas of the Lucas workforce for new products of "social value" is the Centre for Alternative Industrial and Technological Systems (CAITS).

Part of this title went adrift in the article on the centre which appeared in yesterday's Business Diary.

The ASA, a watchdog paid

Britain's first chair in export management is to be set up at the City University NVLA's Midlands regional council, that press advertising for a film called Superintents was indecent.

In the monthly digest of complaints from the ASA, it says that the advertisement was not "grossly offensive to the majority of readers".

It seems that the normally alert NVLA has taken its time to latch on to this way of registering public protest. Although the authority has been publishing complaint findings for three years, an ASA spokeswoman said yesterday that it was the first time a grouse had come from this quarter.

However, the ASA report does uphold a complaint from the Noise Abatement Society. A press advertisement from Pye was found to be "anti-social and unlawful" in claiming that one of the firm's "music centres" (combined radio, tape recorder and gramophone) gave "sound enough to fill your neighbour's lounge as well as your own".

Oh for the day when the Noise Abatement Society complaints about the row from the NVLA...

That old China hand Sir John Keswick, vice-president of the Sino-British Trade Council, told this one about the perils of translation at a London conference this week. A company called Imperial such-and-such called itself "described in sales literature as the People's Republic of China as Imperialistic."

Mary Whitehouse's National Viewers and Listeners Association has been rebuffed a first attempt to exploit the complaints system of the Advertising Standards Authority.

The ASA, a watchdog paid

for and run by the advertising industry itself, disagrees with Peter Murdoch, chairman of the NVLA's Midlands regional council, that press advertising for a film called Superintents was indecent.

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Summary of Results		
	1977 £ million	1976 £ million
	266.9	227.3
	82.4	65.3
taxation	24.7	10.0
able to Ordinary ers	11.1	2.6
ted from operations	30.1	21.0
al employed	176.0	154.6
<hr/>		
on capital employed (excluding exceptional items)	17.0%	12.8%
£1 Ordinary Share	32.6p	7.6p
d dividend per y Share	9.9p	Nil
employees at year end	9195	9022

1977 has shown a marked improvement in results continuing the recovery of 1976. High sales volumes and better margins in the first quarter were followed by lower volumes in succeeding quarters, reflecting low growth in U.K. manufacturing output and some customer destocking. Costs continued to reflect high domestic inflation and margins were being eroded in the weak market conditions of the latter part of the year. A major programme of investment for the modernisation and improved reliability of our plants, and in particular our semi-fabrication plants, is now under way and capital expenditure of over £24 million is forecast for 1978. The outlook for 1978 is one of some recovery from the depressed levels of the second half of 1977, and this will be necessary to maintain the 1977 level of profitability. The directors recommend a net dividend of 9.9p.

The full Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 1977 will be available after 1 March 1978 on request to the Company, Alcan Aluminium (U.K.) Ltd, Publications Dept., South Rd., Banbury, Oxfordshire

Reservations by civil engineers on statutory registration proposals

by Derek Harris

Last night the Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE), one of the big three chartered organizations, moved to be the most conservative so far in its approach towards possible changes in the organization of the profession.

Reservations about supporting the idea of statutory registration for engineers were expressed by the ICE in an outline of its evidence to the Finiston committee of inquiry into the profession, set up by the Government.

The Institution of Mechanical Engineers (IME), another of the big three, has backed statutory registration, under the auspices of the Council of Engineering Institutions (CEI).

But it was doubtful about the practicability and effectiveness of also bridging in a licensing

system under which particular types of engineering work could only be done by those specifically licensed for it.

The most controversial plan has come from the other major body, the Institution of Electrical Engineers (IEE), which has backed both statutory registration for chartered engineers and a form of licensing in a system administered by an independent statutory body.

IEE has not, however, been alone in wanting to see a diminution of the role of CEI, now in the process of some restructuring after a two-year controversy over its organization, which led eventually to the setting up of the Finiston inquiry.

Mr. Ewen M'Ewen, group chief engineer at Lucas Industries and a past-president of the IME, in a memorandum to the Finiston inquiry, has urged a

new registration board, working to high qualification criteria, separate from CEI.

ICE's outline last night indicated that a factor in ICE thinking is that civil engineering is sharply distinguishable from manufacturing industry, and it is careful to point out that its reservations attach to registration for civil engineers. Nevertheless, ICE is known to feel that statutory registration has many shortcomings.

ICE said: "The Institution fears that in some forms of statutory registration the object of considering the professional competence and good engineering practice might not receive primary consideration." But ICE makes clear, that, if there were registration, its own existing arrangements as a qualifying body could only be brought within a registration system based on CEI.

OFT booklet explains state policy on mergers

By Our Financial Staff

Increased effort to provide businessmen with a better idea of the workings of government merger policy, and in particular an attempt to translate the 1973 Fair Trading Act into layman's language, is made in the revised issue of Mergers published by the Office of Fair Trading.

The new publication explains the changes in the law affecting merger control since the 1973 Act, the factors which bring a merger under OFT scrutiny, more detail about the kind of questions companies will be asked, and the parts played by the Mergers Panel and the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Last year the OFT considered 187 mergers, half as many again as the first year of the operation of the 1973 Act. Of these, only 24 cases came to the Mergers Panel, while a further 100 were dealt with by the Mergers Commission.

Apart from the half dozen referred to the Monopolies Commission, the remaining 50 to 60 cases are dealt with by a "relaxed" procedure, which involves no written papers; mergers concerning building societies, acquisition of overseas companies and merchant activities would be disposed of under this procedure.

Mergers prepared by the Office of Fair Trading is published by HM Stationery Office, 90p.

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Stock markets

Miners inspire sharp turnaround

Both equities and gilts shot ahead in late trading after news that the miners' executive had agreed in principle to settle their pay claim within the Government's guidelines.

The industrial leaders were immediately marked up a few pence while gilts reversed early losses of around five-eighths to close with exceptional gains of a full two points. The FT Index, just 0.2 off at 3 pm, closed 4.7 up at 468.4.

Earlier, equities had made a cautious start on speculation that the money supply may be growing faster than the Government's target area and money market interest rates of a full point rise in M.L.R. this week.

But as the "bears" closed down the retreat was halted and prices were further stimulated by remarks from the Chancellor which were interpreted to mean that a general election is not likely this year.

With a statement on dividend control also expected, dealers were looking for an added stimulus to that direction. But it was the miners' news which made the most impact, with the index rallying sufficiently to reach 4350 on fresh support but were still 15p off at the close.

Trust Houses Forte was another to command attention on a profits statement. Figures well above most market estimates were a source of satisfaction and the shares ended with a gain of 9p to 186p. A firm rights issues from AGB Research brought an initial drop of a couple of pence but the general rally helped the shares to close unchanged at 83p.

Renewed speculation in Caledonian Associated Cinemas lifted the shares 35p to 385p in a very thin market. Motor dealer W. J. Reynolds was supported at 27p after takeover possibilities.

Foods were again left out in the cold as they failed to rally with the index. Lennart at 32p was the only food stock to rise, supported by a penny while Sainsbury at 170p and Tesco at 39p held steady.

However, speculation provided a few bright spots in the sector. Fitch Lovell added 4p to 65p on continuing hopes. Both Imperial Group and RAI have been mentioned as likely candidates but many market men are now adopting a wait and see policy.

Doubts about Charterhouse Group's construction interests have held the shares at bay but now the group has disengaged itself from its Charcon Structures subsidiary which lost 1.1p to 197p/77. Having written down the book value of this division by half at the year-end, Charterhouse has now sold the assets in an unannounced deal to Eleco Holdings for a sum believed to be £250,000. Charterhouse are now 59p.

After dipping to 61p Bejam came back to close at 67p, a net gain of 4p on the session. A speculative stock throughout the account, the rise was due more to "bear" closing than any firming of rumours.

Stores too had a difficult day in some places. Mothercare lost 4p to 164p while losses of a penny were marked on British Home Stores at 195p, House of Fraser at 135p and Combined English Stores at 164p. Debenhams at 99p, Suits at 89p and Gus "A" at 278p were unchanged.

Some reasonable buying in inter-office trading was good enough to add 3p to Marks & Spencer at 143p and 2p to Boots at 203p.

Index stock John Brown, after touching 299p, at one stage closed 2p down on the day at 290p following a line of 100,000 shares passing through the market.

But Lucas Industries did not lack buyers and, with jobbers a bit short of stock, the shares climbed 7p to 263p.

Oil shares were one of the sectors favoured in the busy afternoon. ICI, BP, B&A, Shell, Reed International, John Brown, GEC, Grand Metropolitan, Imperial Group, Shell, Fitch Lovell, Trust House Forte and UDT.

this week there was a report of a similar sized transaction buying order and the shares ended unchanged at 780p after 776p. Following confirmation of the "farm-in" deal forecast here, Capel traded at 36p.

Decca, apart, the centre of interest in electricals fell on Rank, up 6p to 252p, and ICL where the gain was 8p to 252p. There was continuing speculation that the possible NEB sale of its holding in Ferruzzi could lead to a full-scale quotation for the electronics group. In the "farm-in" figures, EMI eased a penny to 177p.

The early talk of a substantial hike in interest rates this week did little for the property shares with James Hill Stock Conversion 4p to 240p, Chesterfield 3p to 290p, Haslemere 3p to 231p and M&P 3p to 119p all losing ground. Land Securities was the one leader to gain ground, by a penny to 212p.

Westland Aircraft, at 46p, have not moved much since the news early last month of proposals to slice 1977 profits. Today many institutions are to meet Lord Aldington, chairman, at a seminar arranged by Schroder Wagg and broker Rowe & Pim. Proposals, cost flow and production on the Lynx helicopter line are the areas institutions want clarifying. The annual meeting for all shareholders is on February 15. They could have questions too.

Suter Electrical provided a firm spot rising from 8p to 10p. Although there is no talk yet of a bid, emerging for this maker of hairdressing equipment, dealers report some reasonable interest in the shares.

Equity turnover on February 7 was £66.37m (14,590 bargains). Active stocks yesterday, according to Exchange Telegraph, were ICI, BP, B&A, Reed International, John Brown, GEC, Grand Metropolitan, Imperial Group, Shell, Fitch Lovell, Trust House Forte and UDT.

However, speculation provided a few bright spots in the sector. Fitch Lovell added 4p to 65p on continuing hopes. Both Imperial Group and RAI have been mentioned as likely candidates but many market men are now adopting a wait and see policy.

Doubts about Charterhouse Group's construction interests have held the shares at bay but now the group has disengaged itself from its Charcon Structures subsidiary which lost 1.1p to 197p/77. Having written down the book value of this division by half at the year-end, Charterhouse has now sold the assets in an unannounced deal to Eleco Holdings for a sum believed to be £250,000. Charterhouse are now 59p.

After dipping to 61p Bejam came back to close at 67p, a net gain of 4p on the session. A speculative stock throughout the account, the rise was due more to "bear" closing than any firming of rumours.

Stores too had a difficult day in some places. Mothercare lost 4p to 164p while losses of a penny were marked on British Home Stores at 195p, House of Fraser at 135p and Combined English Stores at 164p. Debenhams at 99p, Suits at 89p and Gus "A" at 278p were unchanged.

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Warning of effect of coal prices on energy decisions

By Roger Vetrove

A nuclear power station will have a cost advantage over a unit unless coal costs are kept low, according to a paper prepared for the Energy Commission by the Department of Energy.

The paper compares costs of coal and nuclear units for a single station. Nuclear power as a less established technology, and involves more uncertainties. But fuel costs are less important to its overall performance, unlike coal where they are the dominant factor. Nuclear stations are, therefore, less vulnerable to fuel cost.

The effects of increases in the price of coal can be significant, and the larger the increases, the more the comparison favours nuclear power.

In another paper for the Energy Commission, the Department estimates that energy investment will stay at about £3,700m a year until 1980. It will decline to the early 1980s, rise again later in the decade, and increase significantly in the 1990s if past economic growth levels are sustained.

Distribution costs could be cut by £500m, BIM says

By Michael Bailey

Top British companies like Marks & Spencer, ICI, and GKN and Netfolds are making major cost savings through improved distribution, the British Institute of Management disclosed yesterday.

But further big savings, probably amounting to £500m a year, could be achieved if the country's transport and distribution system were improved.

Mr. M. C. Devas, a director of Kleinwort, Benson, has been made director of the Family Investment Trust, a new trust set up by Mr. M. C. Devas.

Dr. Mario Schimmenti has been appointed president of Montedison International, a subsidiary of the Italian oil company.

Mr. D. W. Forsyth, Mr. D. W. Guerin, Mr. A. J. Norman, Mr. J. F. Paine, Mr. M. E. Pringle, and Mr. J. A. Wallender have joined the board of S. Davall & Sons.

New director for Vosper Thornycroft

Mr. Nigel Tennant has become a director of Vosper Thornycroft (UK).

Mr. Stephen Lewis will join the board of Vosper Thornycroft (UK). Mr. Lewis is a director of Vosper Thornycroft (UK).

Mr. P. G. E. N. Schab-Monteferre, managing director of Joseph Schab, has been made a director of Vosper Thornycroft (UK).

Sir Eric Norris has been made a director of Vosper Thornycroft (UK). Sir Norris is a director of Vosper Thornycroft (UK).

Sir James Starritt, retired Deputy Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, has become a director of Vosper Thornycroft (UK).

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Business appointments

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Ente Nazionale per l'Energia Elettrica-ENEL

(Italian National Electric Energy Agency)

7 1/2 Per Cent. 15-Year Guaranteed Bonds of 1970

Due March 1, 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, on behalf of Ente Nazionale per l'Energia Elettrica-ENEL, that on March 1, 1978, \$3,500,000 principal amount of its 7 1/2 Per Cent. 15-Year Guaranteed Bonds of 1970 will be redeemed out of moneys to be paid by it to Dillon, Read & Co., as Principal Paying Agent, pursuant to the mandatory, annual redemption requirement of said Bonds and to the related Authenticating Agency Agreement and Paying Agency Agreement, each dated as of March 1, 1970. The Chase Manhattan Bank (National Association), as Authenticating Agent, has selected, by lot, for such redemption the Bonds bearing the following serial numbers:

BONDS SELECTED FOR REDEMPTION									
26	1000	3231	5378	1276	8277	18001	21252	40074	19827
34	1230	3233	5379	1277	8278	18002	21253	40075	19828
42	1460	3234	5380	1278	8279	18003	21254	40076	19829
50	1690	3235	5381	1279	8280	18004	21255	40077	19830
58	1920	3236	5382	1280	8281	18005	21256	40078	19831
66	2150	3237	5383	1281	8282	18006	21257	40079	19832
74	2380	3238	5384	1282	8283	18007	21258	40080	19833
82	2610	3239	5385	1283	8284	18008	21259	40081	19834
90	2840	3240	5386	1284	8285	18009	21260	40082	19835
98	3070	3241	5387	1285	8286	18010	21261	40083	19836
106	3300	3242	5388	1286	8287	18011	21262	40084	19837
114	3530	3243	5389	1287	8288	18012	21263	40085	19838
122	3760	3244	5390	1288	8289	18013	21264	40086	19839
130	3990	3245	5391	1289	8290	18014	21265	40087	19840
138	4220	3246	5392	1290	8291	18015	21266	40088	19841
146	4450	3247	5393	1291	8292	18016	21267	40089	19842
154	4680	3248	5394	1292	8293	18017	21268	40090	19843
162	4910	3249	5395	1293	8294	18018	21269	40091	19844
170	5140	3250	5396	1294	8295	18019	21270	40092	19845
178	5370	3251	5397	1295	8296	18020	21271	40093	19846
186	5600	3252	5398	1296	8297	18021	21272	40094	19847
194	5830	3253	5399	1297	8298	18022	21273	40095	19848
202	6060	3254	5400	1298	8299	18023	21274	40096	19849
210	6290	3255	5401	1299	8300	18024	21275	40097	19850
218	6520	3256	5402	1300	8301	18025	21276	40098	19851
226	6750	3257	5403	1301	8302	18026	21277	40099	19852
234	6980	3258	5404	1302	8303	18027	21278	40100	19853
242	7210	3259	5405	1303	8304	18028	21279	40101	19854
250	7440	3260	5406	1304	8305	18029	21280	40102	19855
258	7670	3261	5407	1305	8306	18030	21281	40103	19856
266	7900	3262	5408	1306	8307	18031	21282	40104	19857
274	8130	3263	5409	1307	8308	18032	21283	40105	19858
282	8360	3264	5410	1308	8309	18033	21284	40106	19859
290	8590	3265	5411	1309	8310	18034	21285	40107	19860
298	8820	3266	5412	1310	8311	18035	21286	40108	19861
306	9050	3267	5413	1311	8312	18036	21287	40109	19862
314	9280	3268	5414	1312	8313	18037	21288	40110	19863
322	9510	3269	5415	1313	8314	18038	21289	40111	19864
330	9740	3270	5416	1314	8315	18039	21290	40112	19865
338	9970	3271	5417	1315	8316	18040	21291	40113	19866
346	10200	3272	5418	1316	8317	18041	21292	40114	19867
354	10430	3273	5419	1317	8318	18042	21293	40115	19868
362	10660	3274	5420	1318	8319	18043	21294	40116	19869
370	10890	3275	5421	1319	8320	18044	21295	40117	19870
378	11120	3276	5422	1320	8321	18045	21296	40118	19871
386	11350	3277	5423	1321	8322	18046	21297	40119	19872
394	11580	3278	5424	1322	8323	18047	21298	40120	19873
402	11810	3279	5425	1323	8324	18048	21299	40121	19874
410	12040	3280	5426	1324	8325	18049	21300	40122	19875
418	12270	3281	5427	1325	8326	18050	21301	40123	19876
426	12500	3282	5428	1326	8327	18051	21302	40124	19877
434	12730	3283	5429	1327	8328	18052	21303	40125	19878
442	12960	3284	5430	1328	8329	18053	21304	40126	19879
450	13190	3285	5431	1329	8330	18054	21305	40127	19880
458	13420	3286	5432	1330	8331	18055	21306	40128	19881
466	13650	3287	5433	1331	8332	18056	21307	40129	19882
474	13880	3288	5434	1332	8333	18057	21308	40130	19883
482	14110	3289	5435	1333	8334	18058	21309	40131	19884
490	14340	3290	5436	1334	8335	18059	21310	40132	19885
498	14570	3291	5437	1335	8336	18060	21311	40133	19886
506	14800	3292	5438	1336	8337	18061	21312	40134	19887
514	15030	3293	5439	1337	8338	18062	21313	40135	19888
522	15260	3294	5440	1338	8339	18063	21314	40136	19889
530	15490	3295	5441	1339	8340	18064	21315	40137	19890
538	15720	3296	5442	1340	8341	18065	21316	40138	19891
546	15950	3297	5443	1341	8342	18066	21317	40139	19892
554	16180	3298	5444	1342	8343	18067	21318	40140	19893
562	16410	3299	5445	1343	8344	18068	21319	40141	19894
570	16640	3300	5446	1344	8345	18069	21320	40142	19895
578	16870	3301	5447	1345	8346	18070	21321	40143	19896
586	17100	3302	5448	1346	8347	18071	21322	40144	19897
594	17330	3303	5449	1347	8348	18072	21323	40145	19898
602	17560	3304	5450	1348	8349	18073	21324	40146	19899
610	17790	3305	5451	1349	8350	18074	21325	40147	19900
618	18020	3306	5452	1350	8351	18075	21326	40148	19901
626	18250	3307	5453	1351	8352	18076	21327	40149	19902
634	18480	3308	5454	1352	8353	18077	21328	40150	19903
642	18710	3309	5455	1353	8354	18078	21329	40151	19904
650	18940	3310	5456	1354	8355	18079	21330	40152	19905
658	19170	3311	5457	1355	8356	18080	21331	40153	19906
666	19400	3312	5458	1356	8357	18081	21332	40154	19907
674	19630	3313	5459	1357	8358	18082	21333	40155	19908
682	19860	3314	5460	1358	8359	18083	21334	40156	19909
690	20090	3315	5461	1359	8360	18084	21335	40157	19910
698	20320	3316	5462	1360	8361	18085	21336	40158	19911
706	20550	3317	5463	1361	8362	18086	21337	40159	19912
714	20780	3318	5464	1362	8363	18087	21338	40160	19913
722	21010	3319	5465	1363	8364	18088	21339	40161	19914
730	21240	3320	5466	1364	8365	18089	21340	40162	19915
738	21470	3321	5467	1365	8366	18090	21341	40163	19916
746	21700	3322	5468	1366	8367	18091	21342	40164	19917
754	21930	3323	5469	1367	8368	18092	21343	40165	19918
762	22160	3324	5470	1368	8369	18093	21344	40166	19919
770	22390	3325	5471	1369	8370	18094	21345	40167	19920
778	22620	3326	5472	1370	8371	18095	21346	40168	19921
786	22850	3327	5473	1371	8372	18096	21347	40169	19922
794	23080	3328	5474	1372	8373	18097	21348	40170	19923
802	23310	3329	5475	1373	8374	18098	21349	40171	19924
810	23540	3330	5476	1374	8375	18099	21350	40172	19925
818	23770	3331	5477	1375	8376	18100	21351	40173	19926
826	24000	3332	5478	1376	8377	18101	21352	40174	19927
834	24230	3333	5479	1377	8378	18102	21353	40175	19928
842	24460	3334	5480	1378	8379	18103	21354	40176	19929
850	24690	3335	5481	1379	8380	18104	21355	40177	19930
858	24920	3336	5482	1380	8381	18105	21356	40178	19931
866	25150	3337	5483	1381	8382	18106	21357	40179	19932
874	25380	3338	5484	1382	8383	18107	21358	40180	19933
882	25610	3339	5485	1383	8384	18108	21359	40181	19934
890	25840	3340	5486	1384	8385	18109	21360	40182	19935
898	26070	3341	5487	1385	8386	18110	21361	40183	19936
906	26300	3342	5488	1386	8387	18111	21362	40184	19937
914	26530	3343	5489	1387	8388	18112	21363	40185	19938
922	26760	3344	5490	1388	8389	18113	21364	40186	19939
930	26990	3345	5491	1389	8390	18114	21365	40187	19940
938	27220	3346	5492	1390	8391	18115	21366	40188	19941
946	27450	3347	5493	1391	8392	18116	21367	40189	19942
954	27680	3348	5494	1392	8393	18117	21368	40190	19943
962	27910	3349	5495	1393	8394	18118	21369	40191	19944
970	28140	3350	5496	1394	8395	18119	21370	40192	19945
978	28370	3351	5497	1395	8396	18120	21371	40193	19946
986	28600	3352	5498	1396	8397	18121	21372	40194	19947
994	28830	3353	5499	1397	8398	18122	21373	40195	19948
1002	29060	3354	5500	1398	8399	18123	21374	40196	19949
1010	29290	3355	5501	1399	8400	18124	21375	40197	19950
1018	29520	3356	5502	1400	8401	18125	21376	40198	19951
1026	29750	3357	5503	1401	8402	18126	21377	40199	19952
1034	29980	3358	5504	1402	8403				

FINANCIAL NEWS

AGB Research forecasts £1.3m in one-for-four cash call

Victor Feist said plans for a firm rights issue of the projection of record profits for the current year are announced yesterday by AGB Research, the leading European market research and the only company in the activity which is quoted on the Stock Exchange.

Proposed to raise about after expenses, by a one-for-four cash call, the company's share price is expected to rise to 83p after the news, indicating that the market is taking a reasonably favourable view of the group's prospects.

The proceeds will be used in the expansion of AGB's con-

tinuous syndicated services and in a broadening of its information-based services, research and publishing activities both in the United Kingdom and in Europe.

The board expects pre-tax profits for the year to April 30 to be not less than £1.35m, a record if achieved and an increase of 34 per cent over 1976-77.

Dividends for 1977-78, therefore, represent an increase of 65 per cent on 1976-77. The new shares will receive the second interim (in lieu of final) which will be declared

in July. Dealings are expected to start, nil paid, on February 13.

The final date for acceptance of the offer and payment in full will be March 3. Grenfell & Colegrave, stockbrokers to AGB, will underwrite the issue.

Since going public in 1970, AGB has enjoyed a good growth record with profits quadrupling from 1969-70's £243,000 to last year's peak of £1m.

Disappointing interim from Mining Supplies

By Michael Clark

Shareholders looking to a further improvement at Mining Supplies were disappointed by the interim figures sent the share price sliding 9p to 56p.

Pre-tax profits of the group, which has the National Coal Board as its main customer, slid from £502,000 to £373,000 for the 26 weeks to October 29.

As recently as last week the shares rose to 68p with some dealers expecting the group to produce a profit of about £550,000. Sales of the Yorkshire-based group rose by 26 per cent to £7.25m, leaving margins 3.6 per cent lower at 5.1 per cent.

Mr Arthur Soipe, chairman, in his statement with the figures, says that the board expects some restoration in the level of profits in the second half but it is unlikely that they will be as high as the record £1.4m achieved last year.

Meanwhile the directors have decided not to reinstate an interim dividend.

Exports lead way at Hirst & Mallinson

By Ashley Druker

Though not completely fulfilling the expectations of investors, the Hirst & Mallinson group has reported a marked improvement after the setback in 1976.

Overseas success had much to do with this better state of affairs, and with exports now representing almost half the sales of its exporting companies.

Exports of the group's textile and clothing companies were boosted by 90 per cent to £330,000 on turnover up from £11.5m to £14.5m. Earnings a share were lifted from 4.7p to 8.4p, on which the total dividend is raised from 2.51p to 2.72p.

At mid-year, pre-tax profit rebounded from a loss of £51,000 to a gain of £217,000 reflecting continued improvement within the group.

There had been an increase in sales both in distribution and textile activities in spite of weaknesses in the home market. But the major factor, as at full-time, influencing growth was the increase in exports.

Generally, the home market remained flat through the year with pressure on margins, but overseas direct and indirect exports rose from £9.7m to £4.7m out of the total turnover.

Elsewhere, the continued policy of discontinuing provision for tax in areas where it seems unlikely to be payable has resulted in negative tax charges in the profit and loss account in the past two years and a consequent increase in the reported assets a share from 43.5p to 50p.

The reduced profit is mainly because of a loss in the period from mining machinery manufacturing. The group also suffered from the effects of the BOC strike which reduced production for a time.

Heavy development was also incurred during this period on the new coal-producing system. However this was successfully exhibited at the mining machinery exhibition in October and is now acceptable to the National Coal Board for testing.

Production of the new system should start shortly and capacity is already available for this. The group has relied on its subsidiary companies' activities to make a greater contribution to profits and in this the chairman reports, they have obliged.

Elsewhere, Mech Electric Ltd has found itself in a period of low demand for diesel generators and this subsidiary shows a loss. Production has been scaled-down considerably, but the group believes the machine has potential when trade improves.

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Redfearn counts cost of defending itself

Redfearn National Glass, the York-based glass container manufacturer, yesterday attacked the "iniquity" of having to meet the high cost of fighting off takeover bids.

The chairman, Mr Stanley Race, told the annual meeting that Redfearn had already had to spend over £90,000 defending itself against bids from Rheem International of the United States and from the Rockware Group of glass bottle makers.

The chairman also said that the £19.5m bid for full control from Rockware were referred to the Monopolies Commission last September.

The commission is also looking at the proposed offer from United Glass which disclosed that it was interested in making an offer for Redfearn after the original monopolies reference.

Although unable to put a figure on the bill at this stage, Mr Race commented: "It does seem to me totally iniquitous that we should have to bear the substantial costs of the defence against unwelcome bids."

Stressing that he was making no complaint against the Monopolies Commission, Mr Race added: "What I regard as really unjust is that we should be asked to pay this heavy financial penalty for being a successful company wishing to remain independent."

In the year to October 2, Redfearn's pre-tax profits rose to £10.6m to £14.5m. Total expenditure on capital improvements during the year was £6.4m. The company has invested £12m on capital expenditure over the past three years and plans to spend a further £8m in 1977-78.

SGB ripe for further growth as construction area revives

By Tony May

Following up its record results for 1977, SGB Group is looking for further growth this year.

Sir Edgar Black, chairman of this international construction plant and services group, says that there are a number of overseas territories where substantial improvements to profits could be made if political and economic factors changed for the better.

At home, he hopes that the recession and that the good results achieved in 1977 will continue. However, the progress of the group depends upon a more stable and improving world trade for the construction industry.

Over 1977, pre-tax profits jumped 44 per cent from £5.7m to £8.2m. Adjusting for inflation this figure would go down to £5.2m, while the current cost accounting profit for the year, together with the net surplus on the revaluation of assets would have provided £7.3m.

Operating profits were up 20.4 per cent to £6.8m, the source of funds from £5.7m to £11.8m, and their application from £6.2m to £5.5m, leaving additional working capital up from £2.5m to £4.9m.

Group reserves increased by £3.2m and deferred taxation—which is not expected to be come payable to the fore—has gone up by over £3m. The group's balance sheet, shows a further improvement with total assets going up £10m to £64m.

Reviewing the subsidiaries, Sir Edgar says that Scafold (Great Britain), the main operating subsidiary in the United Kingdom, had a much better year despite writing-off profits for "exceptionally high" bad debts.

The Youngman Group, Contractors Services Group and Hire Service Shops all had an excellent year, while the strong cleaning activities regained its impetus of work.

Sika Contracts, however, had a poor year with pressure on margins and work somewhat patchy. Overseas, profit from Europe declined as expected, although all companies performed well up to budgeted levels. SGB Universal Buildings Supply had a good year in both Iran and Saudi Arabia, but the North American market was dull. Sika contributed to the significant trading loss at the Australian subsidiary.

NOTICE OF REDEMPTION

To the Holders of

Esso Overseas Finance N.V.

8% Guaranteed Debentures Due 1986

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to the provisions of the Indenture dated as of March 15, 1971 providing for the above Debentures, said Debentures aggregating £6,000,000 principal amount bearing the following serial numbers have been selected for redemption on March 15, 1978 (\$3,000,000 principal amount).

through operation of the mandatory Sinking Fund and \$3,000,000 principal amount through operation of the optional Sinking Fund at the redemption price of 100% of the principal amount thereof, together with accrued interest to said date:

DEBENTURES OF \$1,000 EACH

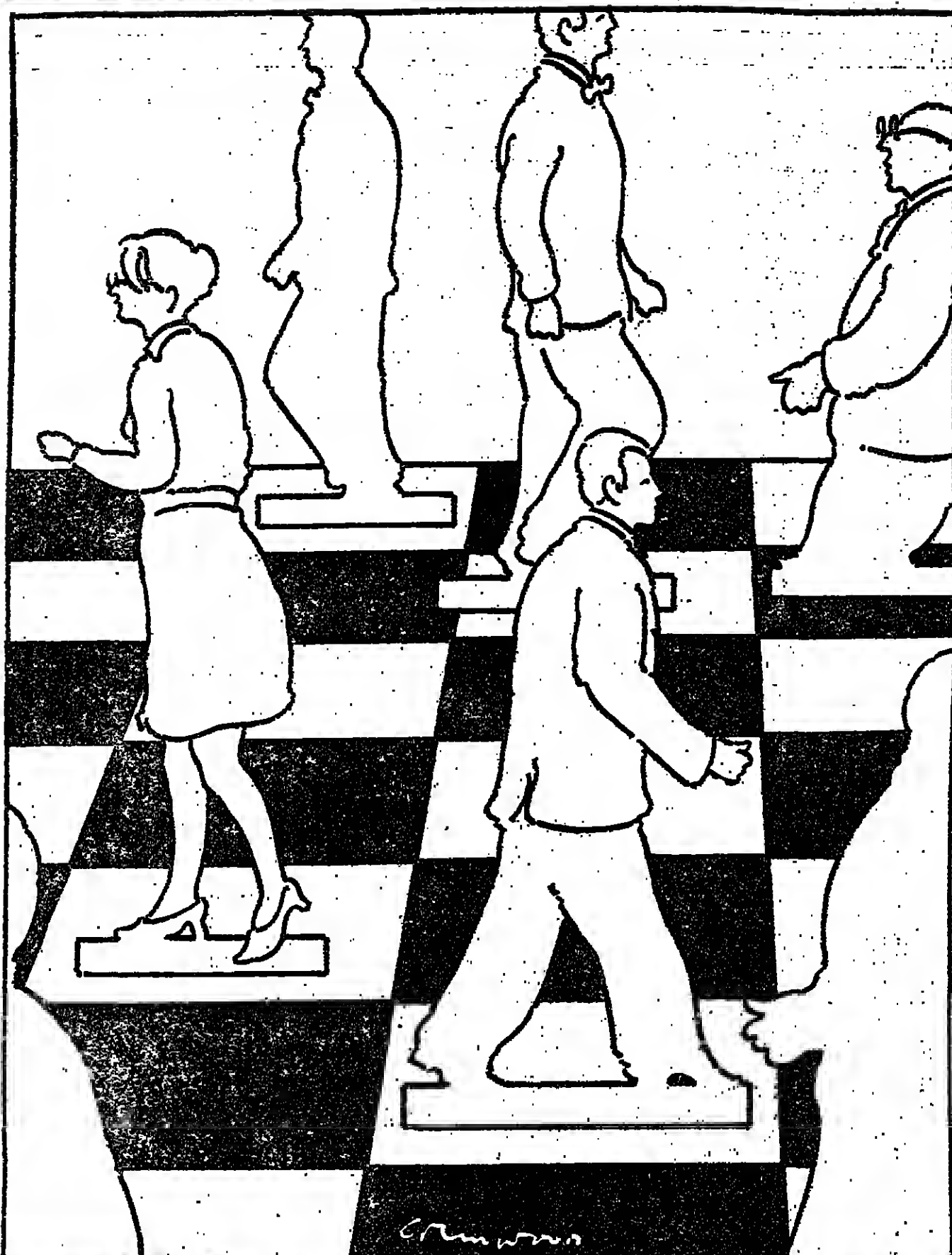
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ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Jan. 30. Dealings End, Feb. 10. \$ Contango Day, Feb. 13. Settlement Day, Feb. 21.
\$ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

5 Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.



All recruitment advertisements in this category are open to both male and female applicants



YOUR NEXT MOVE

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Sales & Marketing
Medical
Local Government
Personnel
Public Relations
Publishing
Graduates
Educational
General
La Creme de la Creme

DURHAM SCHOOL



DIRECTOR OF SIXTH FORM STUDIES

This appointment, which is for September 1978, will be made at the same time as the appointments set out below. One of those appointed will also be Director of Sixth Form Studies. Candidates should have good academic qualifications and experience of successful teaching to Oxford & Cambridge Scholarship level. The person appointed will be expected to take responsibility for the co-ordination of the work of Sixth Formers and tutorial responsibility for those sitting for A-levels. The Director will be responsible for liaison with the Universities. It is expected that the person appointed will be either a Modern Linguist, an Historian or an English graduate.

GRADUATES

TO TEACH FRENCH & GERMAN
TO TEACH FRENCH
TO TEACH ENGLISH
TO TEACH HISTORY

In all three appointments will be made, including that of Director of Studies. One of those appointed will be expected to teach a combination of two of the above. Teaching to University Scholarship level is available in all cases for well-qualified applicants. Two of the appointments are likely to be of graduates with two or three years' experience or straight from University. Enthusiasm for and ability to coach games may be important in one or two of them. Qualifications in Rugby, Cricket or Rowing would be of particular interest.

The School is likely to be able to provide accommodation (i.e. housing for married, or accommodation in the School for single people) at low rent for at least some of those appointed. House Tutorships are likely to be available for single graduates. Further details may be obtained from The Headmaster, Durham School, Durham, DH1 4SZ, to whom applications, (with curriculum vitae and the names of two referees) should be sent as soon as possible.

U.S. Company, Algeria

ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATION MANAGER

The Company operates a hydrocarbons technical education programme; main base is Oran. Work principally associated with personnel and related matters; travelling involved within Algeria.

Candidates prerequisites are:

- mature, adaptable personality
- overseas appropriate professional experience
- good, practical French (to be tested at interview)
- familiarity with Islamic environment

Attractive salary and conditions; appointment possible for several years. Starting date April, 1978. Interviews London early March.

Send detailed C.V., including photograph, to:

BOX 0544K THE TIMES

MARKETING EXECUTIVES

£4,000-£5,000

BTA is a statutory body concerned with the promotion of overseas visitor traffic to Great Britain. We now need two Marketing Executives, male or female, preferred age under 35 who, after a short training period will join our marketing team in London. The work is demanding, but always interesting and gives opportunities for career development.

IF YOU

Have at least two years relevant experience, possibly already working in tourism or a related field in one, preferably two languages, have a good academic background, can write concise reports and communicate well, can create, administer or research as needed, are prepared to travel overseas and work long hours from time to time, we would like to hear from you.

Please write with full details to
Jim Hillier, Personnel Services Manager,
Queen's House, 64 St. James's Street,
London, SW1A 1NF.

WITHIN 10 DAYS.

Experienced Banking Systems Analyst

Experienced Analysts/Designers with an international financial background, are required to join a small professional team engaged in developing an advanced international banking system for world wide use. Starting salary from c. £8,000 based on experience. Excellent fringe benefits, mortgage facilities, profit sharing, etc. Attractive new offices. City location, with a spirited, congenial team and opportunity for foreign travel when undertaking systems installations. Written applications only to:

MANUFACTURERS HANOVER TRUST CO.,
INTERNATIONAL AUTOMATION SUPPORT GROUP.

36 CHEAPSIDE,
3RD FLOOR ADMIN-EXAD,
LONDON EC2V 6AR.

To be received by 28th February, 1978

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT

Financial Times Newsletter Department

Production Assistant to work with General Editor on all aspects of newsletter production—organising copy flow to typists and printers, proof reading, some typing, research projects, etc. We need someone with a high standard of literacy, typing skills, administrative ability and versatility to work in a small, busy and expanding department.

Salary will be in the region of £3,600 after implementation of general industry award.

Write in the first instance with full c.v. details to:
PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT
FINANCIAL TIMES

Bracken House, 18 Cannon Street, EC4A 4BY

JOURNALISM

We have been retained by two leading weekly business magazines, to assist in their recruitment of a number of experienced or trainee journalists to strengthen the Editorial departments by writing on a wide variety of subjects including marketing, industrial relations, and finance.

EXPERIENCED JOURNALISTS

Graduates with two or three years writing and research experience preferably with a business magazine.

GRADUATES IN INDUSTRY

Graduates with a couple of years' experience in commerce or industry, possibly in marketing, research or forecasting, and who wish to enter Journalism.

NEW GRADUATES

1977 Graduates in business studies, Economics or a related subject. Must be able to demonstrate an aptitude for writing and research. Competitive salaries and good prospects based on ability and merit are offered. To learn more about these positions, contact: Andrew Swift on 01-437 5811.

Graduate Appointments Limited

Regent House, 54-62 Regent Street, London W1A 4YJ.

Management Trainees

Amy Roadstone Corporation, the main U.K. subsidiary of the Gold Fields Group, is a major supplier of materials for the construction industry, both in this country and overseas. Total group sales are currently running at around £200 million a year. In order to ensure future reserves of senior general management, we now intend to recruit 5 management trainees for entry in August/September of this year.

Each trainee will initially concentrate on specialised management in one of the following functions: Production (Aggregates of ready-mixed concrete), Transport, Sales, Administration.

A degree or equivalent is essential for all these functions, preferably in Mining or Mechanical Engineering for the first two, and in Law, Economics, Statistics Management or General Business for the second two.

Also essential for all disciplines are self-motivation, numeracy and commercial flair.

The group is expanding rapidly and prospects for promotion are good. Our policy for staff training and development ensures a systematic approach to performance, appraisal and career progression. Starting salary will be not less than £9,500 plus the customary fringe benefits.

Please apply, giving brief details of your background and ambitions, to:

Mrs. M. E. Dalmahoy,

Group Management Development Administrator,

Amy Roadstone Corporation Ltd.,

15 Stanhope Gate,

London W1Y 8AB.

ARC Amy Roadstone

Chartered Accountant

Required in WC1 to take a number of special jobs from the three partners. Control a block of audits and deal directly with clients on these matters. Salary, £7,500 p.a.

TELEPHONE 01-405 9143

RESEARCH ASSISTANT

Location Central London

A leading Industrial Consultancy and Publishing Company requires a graduate to work on the preparation of reports and articles.

Reasonable numeracy and an ability to write clearly, concisely in English are required. Should possess a degree in Economics, Geography, Zoology, Chemistry, etc.

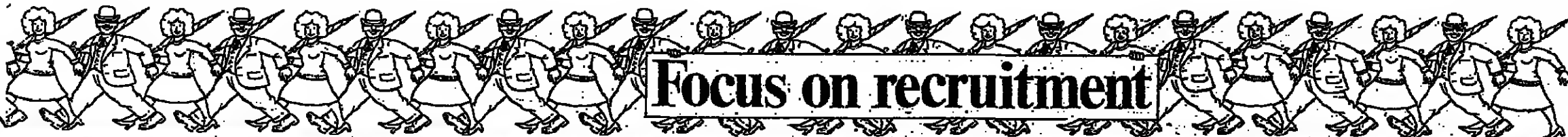
Salary from £3,500 according to experience and qualifications.

START APRIL

Phone JANE TUPPER, 01-222 5871.

THE BRITISH SULPHUR CORPORATION

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Focus on recruitment

Managerial - Overseas - Legal - Finance & Accountancy - Sales & Marketing - Medical - Local Government - Personnel - Public Relations - Publishing - Graduates - Educational - General - La Creme de la Creme.

ISH ELECTRICITY INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

£68 to £10,828

Electricity International Limited (BEI) a wholly subsidiary company of the Electricity Council, provides consultancy services to Governments, supply undertakings and other organisations on electricity supply industry matters. BEI is currently operating in over 30 countries and has a turnover of several million pounds.

The woman we are looking for will be responsible for the activities of British Electricity International Ltd, both in the U.K. and overseas. She will be capable of independent thought, analysing business situations and formulating development proposals. Her prime responsibility will be to seek new business opportunities and to develop them in accordance with company policies. The ability to travel at all levels is an essential requirement. Her duties will be to assist in the development of a strategic plan. Duties will include:

- conducting market surveys
- contacting and seeking potential clients
- preparing plans for markets to be addressed
- organising BEI activities overseas

— producing brochures and other literature
— maintaining business contacts in the U.K. and overseas.

You must possess appropriate academic and/or professional qualifications, have a good knowledge of the electricity supply industry and preferably spent some time in marketing and sales with some exposure to overseas work. Knowledge of French and/or Spanish or an aptitude for language would be an asset.

The successful candidate will be employed by the Electricity Council and will be seconded to BEI on a full-time basis. The headquarters of BEI are located at Hancock House, 87 Vincent Square, London SW1.

Please write in confidence giving age, career to date and present salary quoting ref. (T) to:

Duncan Ross,
Recruitment & Development Officer,
The Electricity Council,
30 Millbank, London SW1P 4RD

ELECTRICITY COUNCIL

PROCESS ENGINEERS

London based international consultants require process engineers with some project experience for feasibility study work and to assist on project supervision. Extensive overseas travel may be required from time to time.

Candidates should ideally have a background in petrochemicals—specifically ammonia/urea/methanol—or heavy inorganic chemicals—specifically mineral acids and chemical fertilisers.

Age not too important although preferably under 30.

Facility with foreign languages could be an advantage. Salary negotiable c. £7,000 according to age, qualifications and experience.

Replies giving salary history and full curriculum vitae to:

**Box 0762K
The Times**

WOOTTON, JEFFREYS & PARTNERS

Established in 1971, we are a medium-sized consultancy with offices in Brookwood and Manchester, providing services in:

- Computing
- Transport Planning
- Management Science

Our clients include central and local government and companies of all sizes to whom we supply:

- Professional advice
- Systems and programming assistance
- Complete software systems

We are currently expanding our computing activities and are looking for the following professionals (male or female):

Hardware Development Manager

who will have the opportunity to lead a team designing and constructing hardware, based on readily available components, for prototype production of micro-processing systems. The person for whom we are looking will have at least 5 years experience in this or a related field. Salary to £9,000.

Systems Programmer

who will apply his experience of mini-computer, assembler programming, and knowledge of operating systems or compilers for systems maintenance and development. Salary to £7,500.

Systems Analysts/Programmers

who will be skilled in Fortran—preferably in an interactive time-sharing environment. We are interested in people with the ability to develop applications programmes in a variety of fields. Salary to £6,500.

Sales Representatives

who have had at least 2 years experience with a major computer manufacturer or bureau and who will have the ability to market complete systems comprising hardware and applications programmes. Salary to £4,500 plus commission.

Please write indicating your interest and any qualifications and relevant experience to John Wootton at Wootton, Jeffreys & Partners, Cemetery Pales, Brookwood, Woking, Surrey.

INTERPRETERS

English, French and Russian or Spanish

UNITED NATIONS

view and test to fill trainee positions in the Interpretation Service of the United Nations at New York.

Be English as mother tongue or main language and have completed university studies in English. "Mother tongue and/or main language" is to be understood as the language into which applicants consider themselves best able to work.

Interpreters are expected to have a wide cultural knowledge and fluency in one or more of the languages mentioned above. They must also have a thorough auditory comprehension of two other official languages (French, Russian or Spanish).

Trainees will range from \$14,300 to \$22,440 gross per annum, plus cost of living and other allowances where applicable. Fully qualified candidates could be appointed at a \$23,910 gross per annum, plus allowances as above.

ten résumés urgently to:

Secretariat Recruitment Service (Interpreters) Room 3601,
Office of Personnel Services,
New York, NY 10017

RECRUITMENT ADVERTISING

35 New Broad Street, London EC2M 1NH
Tel: 01-588 3588 or 01-588 3576
Telex No. 897374

An interesting and varied appointment—scope to become Contracts Manager in 2 years

CONTRACTS ADMINISTRATOR

SHIRE ADVANCED REAL TIME COMPUTER CONTROL EQUIPMENT/SYSTEMS MANUFACTURER SUBSIDIARY OF MAJOR GROUP

Applications from Graduates (male or female) or equivalent in a commercial discipline, aged 23-30, required a minimum of 3 years' commercial administration experience and at least 18 months at contracts. The brief of the successful candidate, who will work closely with the Commercial Manager, is the day-to-day administration of contracts worth between £15,000 and £3 million, involving monitoring progress, ensuring adherence to compliance, payments; also day-to-day general administration duties. Commercial attitude and the capacity to grow rapidly in a fast moving environment are essential. Salary negotiable £7,500, contributory pension, free life assurance, free BUPA, relocation expenses necessary. Applications in strict confidence under reference CA9878/TT will be forwarded unopened unless you list companies to which they should not be forwarded in a covering letter marked for the attention of the Security Manager.

JOHNSTON RECRUITMENT ADVERTISING LIMITED, 35 NEW BROAD STREET, LONDON EC2M 1NH.

An Editor

and in cookery publishing is required to compile recipe anthologies for a series to be published by an international publisher with offices in central London. French would be a distinct advantage. Salary negotiable.

For full details of previous experience to Box 0625 K, The Times

UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

Principal of the University

The Curators of Patronage of the University, in consequence of the untimely death of Sir Hugh Robson, now invite any individual of appropriate experience and background, who is interested in this post, to communicate with the undersigned from whom further information is available. Please quote Reference 1/78.

CHARLES H. STEWART
Secretary to the Curators of Patronage
Old College, South Bridge, Edinburgh EH8 9YL
January, 1978

TELEVISION SALES REPRESENTATIVE WEST AFRICA

International Television Film Distributor seeks West African national to train as sales representative for West Africa.

Desired qualifications: university graduate, age 22 to 40, previous experience of television industry an advantage. Bilingual English/French. Salary during training and subsequently negotiable.

Applications in writing with full curriculum vitae to: Box 0771 K, The Times

COMMERCIAL OFFICER

DANISH EMBASSY

A vacancy occurs for a Commercial Officer in the Commercial Section of the Danish Embassy to undertake a variety of work connected with assisting Danish exporters to market their products in Britain, including Market Research and promotional work.

A likely candidate would be a business graduate, aged 27-35 years, with some marketing/sales experience in a trade or industry. A fair knowledge of the Danish or Norwegian or Swedish languages would be an advantage.

Candidates should send a full career history to:

THE ROYAL DANISH EMBASSY
Commercial Section
55 Sloane Street, London SW1X 9SR

Building Materials Sales Engineer to work in United Arab Emirates

Age: 28-35 years. Education: National Certificate or equal. Experience: 3-5 years in marketing building materials.

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- directing in-house administration and development of procedures.

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An appropriate professional qualification is essential together with a number of years experience in personnel management. Some previous experience of overseas work would be an added advantage. The successful candidate will be employed by The Electricity Council and will be seconded to BEI on a full time basis. The headquarters of BEI are located at Hancock House, 87 Vincent Square, London SW1.

Please write in confidence giving age, career to date and present salary quoting ref (T) to:-

Duncan Ross
Recruitment & Development Officer
The Electricity Council
30 Millbank, London SW1P 4RD

ELECTRICITY COUNCIL

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COMMUNITY INDUSTRY

The organization was established in 1971 for the purpose of helping socially and personally disadvantaged young people who experience acute difficulty in finding or keeping jobs. By developing their work and personal skills through practical worthwhile work in the community as members of team projects, combined with individual personal support and guidance, we help them gain better employment opportunities. We are financed by Central and Local Government funds. We have 43 area offices employing about 5,500 people.

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(Including supplements of £222 p.a. and London weighting of £485 p.a.)

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Applications and full c.v. in confidence to:-
Box 0773 K, The Times

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Applicants should be creative, energetic, from whom a wide range of activities can be expected. The successful candidate will be a graduate of a university or polytechnic with a degree in Engineering, Science, Technology, or a related subject. A salary not less than £5,000 p.a. dependent upon experience and qualifications will be paid and benefits include flexible working hours, pension, restaurant, 20 days holiday and pension and life assurance schemes.

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THE INSTITUTION OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS
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Telephone: 01-636 9559

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Closing date: 28 February, 1978

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Closing date: 28 February, 1978

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SUMMER '78 - A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY

*Source: TGI 1977 Vol. 31

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Turbo an
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Performance at a price—the Saab Turbo

as a means of boosting performance has been allocated for the British market. The Saab Turbo is based on the three-door 900 model. Peak output of the fuel-injected two-litre engine has gone up from 110 to 145 hp, acceleration to 60 mph takes about nine seconds and the top speed is 120 mph. Perhaps more important is a 45 per cent increase in torque, which means more power for overtaking.

Saab can justifiably claim that the performance of the car puts it up with the quickest six-cylinder cars. The extra power comes in at about 2,000 rpm, or the equivalent of 40 mph in top gear. So if the Turbo is not just away from the traffic lights, it does offer spectacular acceleration a little higher up the range and few cars will beat it from 50 mph to 70 mph (and beyond, where speed limits allow).

A dashboard gauge tells the driver when the turbocharger is being activated, which in average driving is surprisingly brief periods. Once the power boost has been supplied, the engine reverts to normal working. Saab estimates, in fact, that the turbocharger is in operation only 12 to 15 per cent of the time.

This infrequent use is the reason fuel consumption is little affected. If the car was driven exceptionally hard over long periods, the extra fuel needed by the turbo could raise consumption quite substantially; but in normal driving the difference is marginal. Certainly its returns of 22 to 30 mpg were similar to those it has obtained on other models.

The turbo cuts in smoothly, there is a slight whistle and the car simply surges away. But overall the engine is not as quiet as a six-cylinder and the car suffers from both wind and road noise.

The Turbo looks suitably aggressive, with a black bodyshell, large spoilers front and rear and special alloy wheels. These may be more than surface embellishments of what is now a pretty old shape, but they were enough to turn a few heads.

I have not thought of the Saab as a particularly nimble car, and at 99 models, it is heavy on the low-end steering. But once on the move, it becomes more responsive and though fast cornering sets up tyre squeal the roadholding is very good. There is a pleasant gearbox and effective brakes.

The car is comfortable as far as the va-shaped seats go, but the ride can be hard and bumpy. Thanks mainly to the front-wheel drive layout, generous passenger space and a large boot are provided within a modest overall length of 14 feet and 3 inches and the rear seat can be folded down to give a load platform six feet long.

The rear head restraints are a bad idea, blocking the view out of the back window, but otherwise I can only applaud Saab's safety features, which include an almost tank-like bodyshell, large bumpers, headlamp wipers and laminated windscreen. The Turbo also has as standard equipment a stereo

radio/cassette player, driving lamps and high intensity rear fog lamps. All the same, at £7,850 the car is nearly £2,000 more than the next most expensive three-door 900 and the customer paying, in effect, for a facility that will not be used for 85 per cent of the time. But turbo driving is an experience to be relished and Saab is confident that it will have more orders than it can meet.

Counting the damage, there may be lies, damned lies and statistics, but sometimes the figures tell the story more vividly than words. Checking through the files the other day I came across the tables of new car registrations in Britain for the year 1977, and in the light of what has happened since they make interesting, if depressing, reading.

It was a year when British Leyland commanded just over 40 per cent of the market, the importers 19 per cent and Datsun and Toyota less than 1 per cent between them. Compare that with 1977, when Leyland was down to 4.33 per cent, imported cars took more than 45 per cent of sales, and Datsun's share alone was 6.21 per cent.

The market leader last year was Ford, with 25.7 per cent, but since cars imported from West Germany, Spain, Belgium and the Irish Republic accounted for more than a quarter of its sales, its performance with British-built cars was little better than the 18.74 per cent achieved in 1971.

Indeed, apart from the sheer size of the import share nowadays, the striking thing is the number of cars being imported by British manufacturers. Ford no longer makes the Capri and Granada models in Britain, but apart from bringing these in from Germany, it has been selling German and Irish Escorts, Spanish Fiestas and Irish and Belgian Corvairs.

Almost a third of Vauxhall's cars came from abroad, though this model is now being made here. Chrysler imported Simcas from France, the 180 two-litre from Spain and the Hunter from Ireland. Even Leyland brought in 2,500 Allegros from its Sennett plant in Belgium.

All that must be bewildering for the British motor industry, which has come to assume that a Ford or a Vauxhall, and certainly an Austin, is a British car. The most controversial figure of 1977 was the Japanese market share of 10.6 per cent, compared with 9.4 per cent the previous year and 9.04 per cent in 1975. This after the British motor industry reached an understanding with the Japanese that their penetration in Britain would not be increased. According to the Japanese, however, there was no agreement but merely a forecast of "no conspicuous change".

How conspicuous a change must be is an argument that will rumble on.

Peter Waymark

CAR BUYER'S GUIDE

VINTAGE & CLASSIC VEHICLE AUCTION

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